

# Love God With Your Heart

Taken from Mark 12:30, 31

Folk Melody, source unknown

I  
Love God with your heart and your neigh - bor as\_ your - self;

II  
Love God with your mind and your neigh - bor as\_ your - self;

III  
Love God with your strength and\_ your\_ neigh - bor as your - self.

## Ideas for Using “Love God With Your Heart” in Rehearsal and Worship

Given the three phrases of this melody, you might teach one phrase each week and use the rhythmic and melodic ideas found in each phrase for teaching skills in music reading such as these. Although the folk melody is presented in a minor key here, it works in the parallel major (by playing in key of G major).

### Teaching Rhythm

- Isolate and Notate the first six beats and have the children clap this pattern for you. Have the children find other places that this rhythm occurs and clap those examples while saying the text.
- Isolate and Notate the last ten beats of the first phrase. Ask yourself what are all the possible rhythmic skills presented here. For younger children, reinforce quarter notes, eighth notes and quarter rest. If children can read this rhythmic pattern already, have the clap together the pattern while saying the text.
- Have half of the choir keep a steady beat while the other half claps the rhythm. Give children a chance to experience both. Older children may practice keeping a steady beat with one hand patting the knee while the other hand pats the rhythmic pattern on the other knee.

### Teaching Melody and Harmony

There is much material here in this simple melody. You could teach in the minor, then teach in the major to talk about

major/minor tonality, exploring major and minor thirds. You might create an ostinato using tonic and dominant.

- Isolate and Notate the first six pitches. Have the children describe how the melody moves. Reinforce repeated notes and step-wise ascending patterns. Have the children sing the first six pitches. Show the children the melody in the first two measures and have them explain what happens (the melody turns, descends back to where they began). Continue this approach breaking the melody into logical segments to focus the children on step-wise movement, repeated tones and melodic direction.
- Use as a two and three part round or canon. With older children, talk about how the phrases fit and work together harmonically.

### Using in Worship

- Close your choir rehearsal with the children singing this as a closing prayer.
- Have the children sing this as a response to the gospel lesson.
- Have the children sing as a sending forth at the conclusion of worship. Teach the congregation the first phrase and invite them to sing that phrase while the children process out singing the entire melody.