# Working with Functional Harmony in the Orff Classroom

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### Ach Du Lieber Augustin (Germany)

From the Upcoming Publication, Purposeful Pathways, Book 4

### PATHWAY TO Meter in 3: Opposites replacement rhythm exercise

• Model the basic 3 **BP** pattern. Students join in when they have figured out the pattern. (simultaneous imitation)

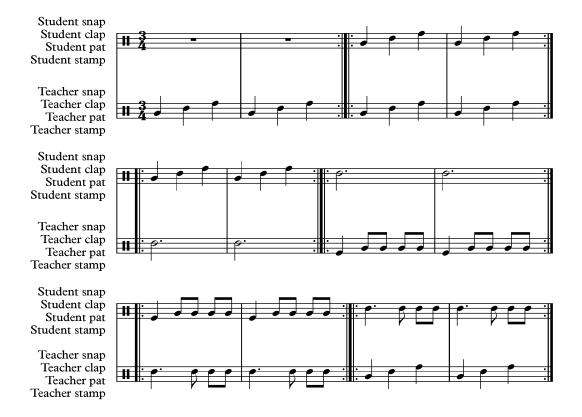


• Students continue with the first pattern, while you model a dotted half note value with circular sustained claps.



clap (move hands outward in a sustained circle)

• When you say "switch," the students perform the last rhythm you modeled, as you move to the next rhythm extracted from the song, recorder **descant**, or **BP** accompaniment used later in the lesson.



#### PATHWAY TO Singing: Learning the song through literacy

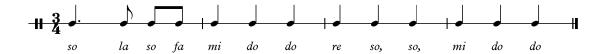
- Students establish the meter in 3 (pat, clap, snap) and then you sing the song on "loo."
- Sing the song again and ask the students to listen to determine the **phrase** form of the song. (a a' b a')
- Students read the rhythm of the a' phrase.



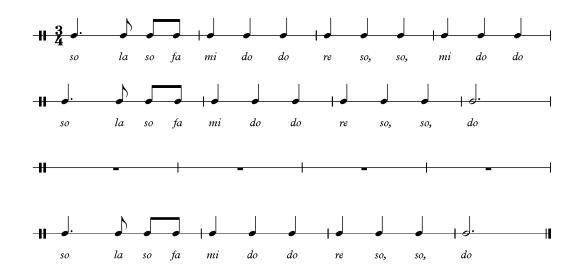
- Acclimate the students to F=do hexatonic (with low so) using the solfa tone ladder. (so, do re mi fa so la)
- Students read the **solfa** for the a' **phrase**.



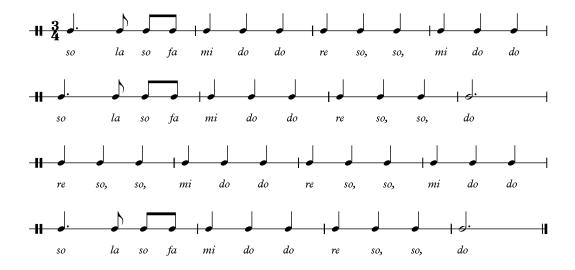
- Students sing the a' **phrase** several times so that they know it well.
- Sing the a **phrase** for them on "loo" and ask them to determine what is different. (The ending of the **phrase**.)
- Students read the **solfa** for the a **phrase**.



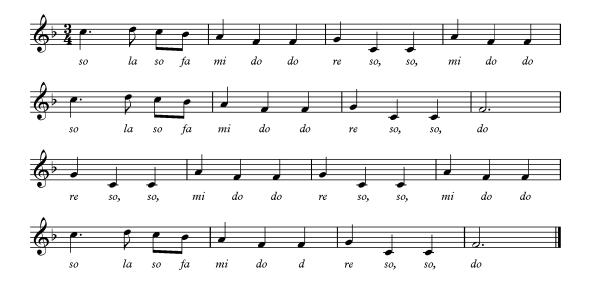
• Students sing the parts of the song that they know on **solfa** syllables.



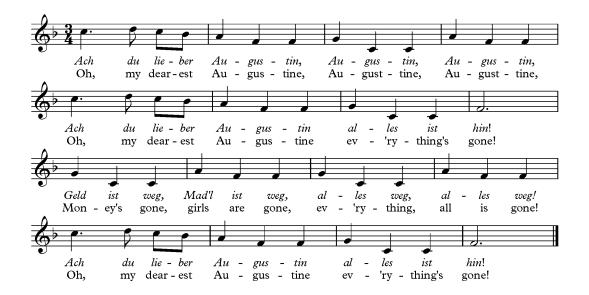
- Repeat. This time, you sing the b phrase on "loo."
- Tell the students that there are two **solfa** patterns that comprise the b **phrase** and they already know both of them. Sing the b **phrase** on "loo" again and ask them to determine what two **solfa** patterns you sang and in what order. (*re so, so, and mi do do* two times)
- Students sing the entire song using **solfa**.



- Acclimate the students to F=do hexatonic (with low so) on the staff.
- Students sing the melody in **solfa** while reading from the staff.

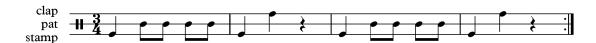


• Students sing the melody with text.



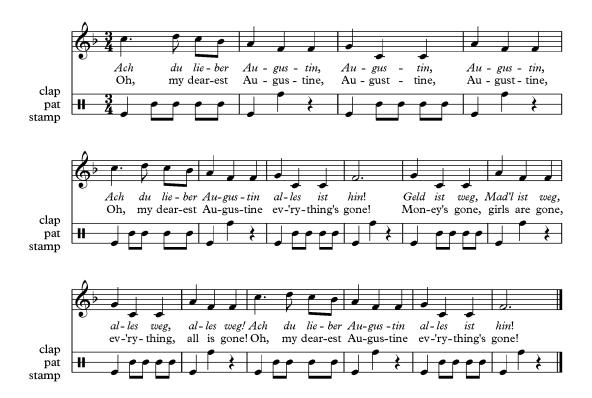
## PATHWAY TO Partwork: Singing with BP

• Model the **BP ostinato**. Ask the students to join you when the have the pattern figured out.



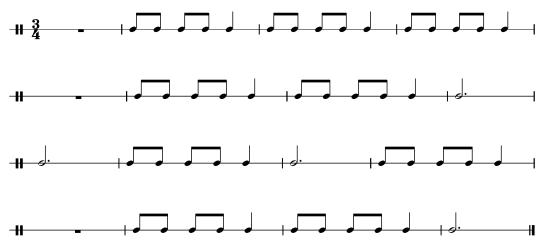
• Divide the class in half. Half performs the **BP ostinato**. Half sings the song. Trade parts. Always establish the **ostinato** before bringing in the singers.

• When you revisit this on a second day, ask the students to perform both parts at once.

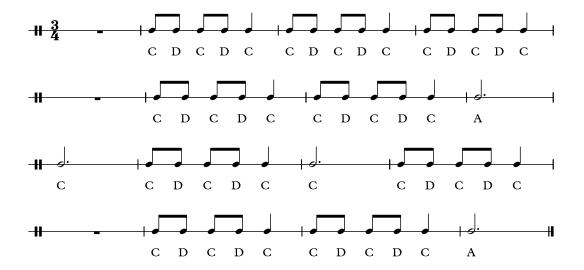


## PATHWAY TO Partwork: Singing with recorder descant

• Students read the rhythm of the recorder descant.



- Review the fingerings for A, C, and D.
- Students sing the letter names first and then sing the letter names and practice the fingerings.



• Students read the recorder part from the staff.



• Small groups of recorder players play the **descant** while most of the class sings the song.



# <u>PATHWAY TO Ensemble: I-V with recorder descant, BP ostinato, and GL I chord triad</u>

 Students follow the notation on the whiteboard as you sing solfa (or chord numbers) and pat the BX/BM part.

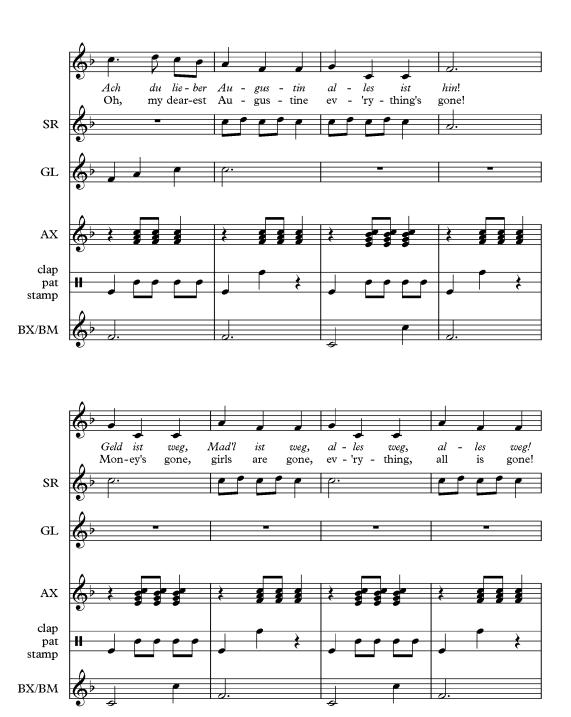


- Students sing solfa (or chord numbers) and pat the BX/BM part.
- Divide the class in half. Half sings and pats the **BX/BM** part while the other half sings the song. Trade parts.
- Transfer to BX/BM and perform with singers.
- Lead a discussion about the pitches in the I chord and the  $V^7$  chord in F=do hexatonic.
  - o I chord F A C
  - o  $V^7$  chord C E G  $B^b$
- Ask the students to select two pitches from the I chord and two pitches from the V<sup>7</sup> chord that they can switch between easily. They play those pitches on beats 2 and 3 of every measure while you sing or play the **BX/BM** part.
- Once the students are feeling confident with the chord changes have them play the changing chords to the rhythm of the AX part in the score:
- Put the changing chords together with the **BX/BM** part. The chords are written as the **AX** part in the score, but you can also use **SX** if you'd like to have more students on instruments. (Note that, as always, you can simply teach the students to play the pitches in the score or you can have discussions about chords and have them select their own pitches to play. Both processes work.)
- Teach the **GL** part by rote and add to the orchestration.
- Add the recorder descant and put all of the parts together with singers.

# Ach Du Lieber Augustin (Oh, My Dearest Augustine)



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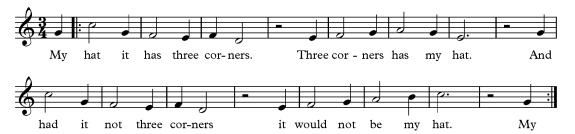


My Hat It Has Three Corners (Germany)

From the Upcoming Publication, Purposeful Pathways, Book 4

#### PATHWAY TO Audiation: Learning the song and eliminating words

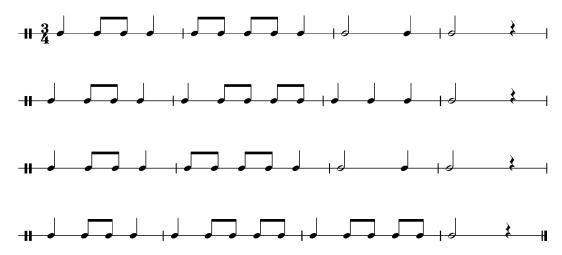
- Students perform a three-beat **BP** pattern (pat, clap, snap) as you sing the song.
- Students learn the song through **echo imitation**, while patting the three-beat pattern.



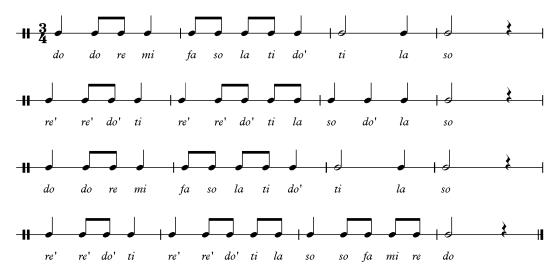
- Students sing the entire song, maintaining the three-beat pattern.
- Students create gestures or shapes to represent "hat", "three," and "corners." They sing the song with the movements they create.
- Students sing the song, **audiating** the word "hat" with their gesture every time it occurs in the song.
- Students sing the song, audiating the words "hat" and "corners."
- Students sing the song, audiating the words "hat, "corners," and "three."
- Students audiate the entire song while performing their gestures or shapes.

## PATHWAY TO Partwork: Melody with countermelody and BP ostinato

• Students read the rhythm of the **countermelody**.



• Students read and sing the **countermelody** from **solfa** notation, using **solfa** and hand signs.



- Students sing the song using **solfa** syllables with hand signs while reading from the staff.
- Students sing the **countermelody** in **solfa** while reading from the staff.



- Students sing the **countermelody** while you sing the melody. Trade parts.
- Divide the class in half. Half sings the melody; half sings the **countermelody**. Trade Parts.

## My Hat It Has Three Corners 2-part with BP



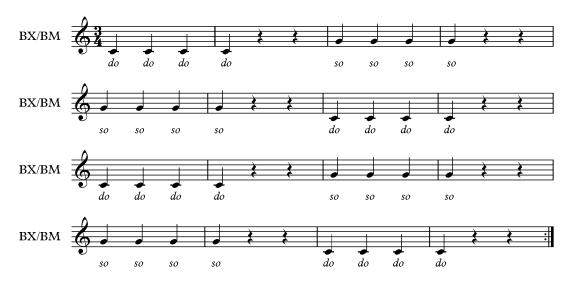
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- Perform the **BP ostinato** with the text. Ask the students to enter when they are ready.
- Students perform the **BP ostinato** while audiating the text.
- Students perform the **BP ostinato** as you sing the melody or **countermelody**.
- Divide the class into three groups: melody, countermelody, and BP ostinato.
- Rotate the students through the three groups.
- Perform the **BP ostinato** with the text. Ask the students to enter when they are ready.
- Students perform the **BP ostinato** while audiating the text.
- Students perform the **BP ostinato** as you sing the melody or **countermelody**.
- Divide the class into three groups: melody, **countermelody**, and **BP ostinato**.
- Rotate the students through the three groups.

### PATHWAY TO Ensemble: I-V accompaniment

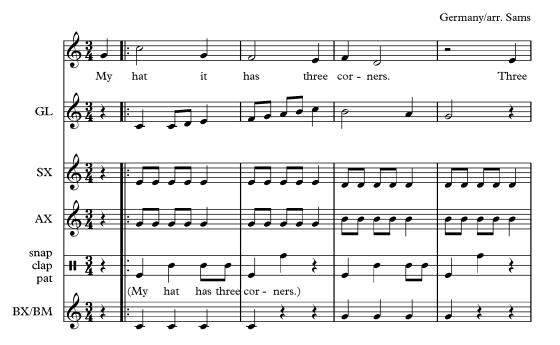
• Students read the **BX/BM ostinato**, singing **solfa** and patting their legs appropriately to prepare for playing the barred instruments.



Students sing and pat the BX/BM ostinato as you sing the melody.

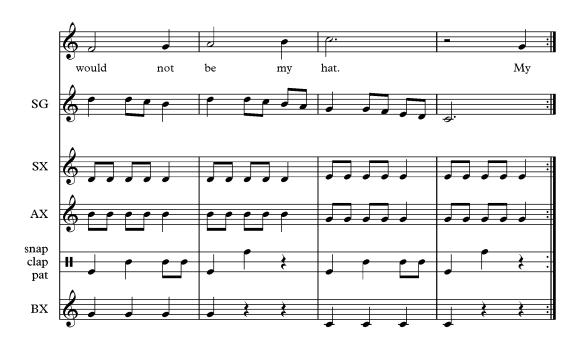
- Divide the class in half. Half sings and pats the **BX/BM ostinato**. Half sings the melody. Trade parts.
- Transfer the **BX/BM ostinato** to barred percussion.
- Students sing the **BX/BM ostinato**, using roman numerals. (I-V)
- Teach or review the pitches in the I chord and the V chord in the Key of C.
- Divide the students into three groups. All three groups play their assigned pitches to the rhythm of the **BX/BM ostinato**.
  - o Soprano xylophones play E on the I chord and D on the V chord.
  - o Alto xylophones play G on the I chord and B on the V chord.
  - o Bass xylophones and metallophones play the chord roots, as written.
- When the students are secure playing their chord tones on the same rhythm, have the SX and AX players switch to the rhythm written in the score. ( )
- Put the barred instrument chordal accompaniment together with singers.
- Add the **countermelody**, either as a second sung part or as a **GL descant**.
- Add the **BP ostinato** and perform the entire orchestration. You might also choose to use student-created **BP ostinato** compositions.

# My Hat It Has Three Corners



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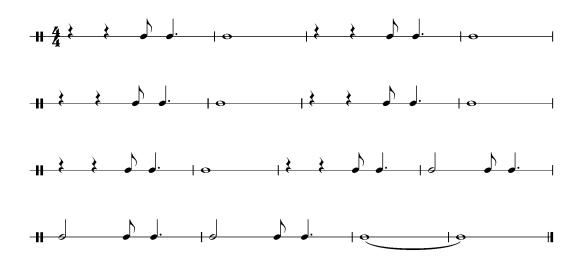




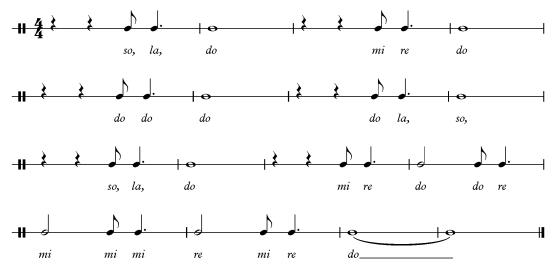
This Little Light of Mine
From the Upcoming Publication, Purposeful Pathways, Book 4

## PATHWAY TO Literacy:

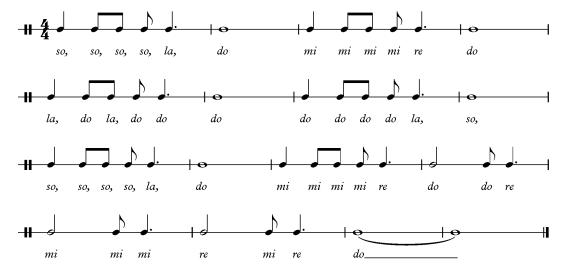
- Students clap  $\gtrless \gtrless \circlearrowleft \circlearrowleft$ .
- Sing the melody on loo and ask the students to listen for the above rhythm.
- Sing the melody on loo and ask the students to clap this rhythm whenever you sing it.
- Students read the following score, saying rhythm syllables.



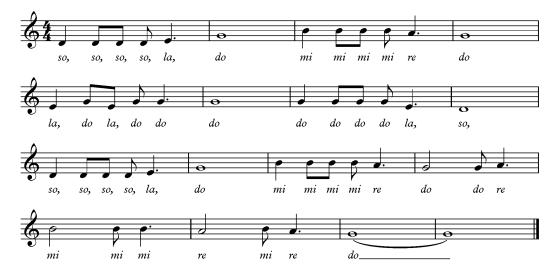
- Use the **solfa tone ladder** to acclimate the students to the pitch vocabulary in the song (so, la, <u>do</u> re mi; G=do).
- Students snap on the rests and sing **solfa** from the following score.



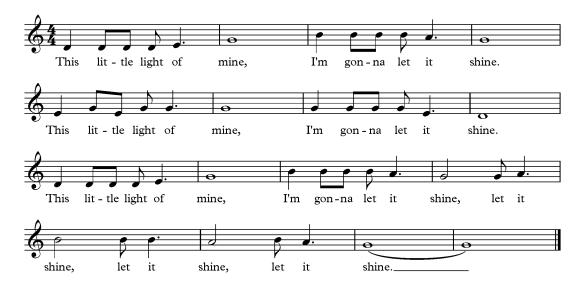
• Students sing **solfa** from the following score.



- Acclimate the students to the pitch vocabulary on the staff.
- Students sing the melody in **solfa** while reading from the staff.



• Students sing the melody with text, while reading from the staff.



• Encourage the students to be free with the rhythms and swing it. Model for them, as appropriate.

## PATHWAY TO Part Singing: Melody with countermelody

TEACHING TALK: Pedagogical choices

We have just provided you with a literacy-based model for teaching the melody. Considering the high degree of mental focus required when reading music notation, we are choosing to use an aurally-based approach to teaching the **countermelody**. Both processes are legitimate and either is always a possibility when teaching new songs.

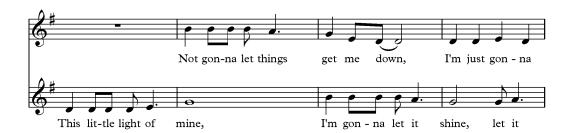
• Ask the students to sing the melody of the song. Tell them that you will be entering with a different melody and ask them to do their best to stay on their melody and listen to

how your melody fits with theirs. When you sing the **countermelody**, swing it, rather than performing the rhythms precisely.

## This Little Light of Mine









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- With text on the whiteboard, teach the students the melody through **echo imitation** or other rote teaching processes. Use the **solfa tone ladder** and **solfa** singing as remediation if there are challenging **phrases** or **motives** for the students.
- Students sing the **countermelody** with you.
- Students sing the **countermelody** without support.

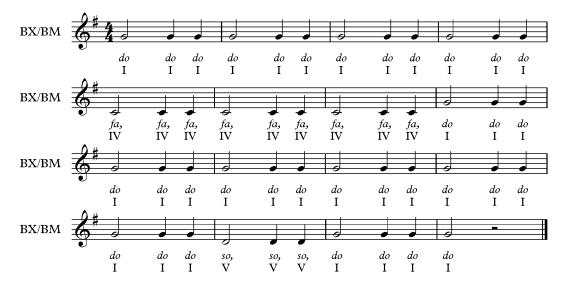
• Divide the class in half. Half sings the melody while the other half sings the **countermelody**. Trade parts.

#### PATHWAY TO Harmonic Structure Through Movement: Bass Follow

- Students stand in scattered space throughout the room. Lead this activity on the BX or piano.
- Begin with students stepping the steady beat while traveling forward as you play a steady beat on the tonic (do=1).
- Change to the pattern below. Students must show a sustained motion for the duration of the half notes.



• Change the pitch to the subdominant (fa,=IV). The students change direction when they hear the change, keeping the rhythmic flow in the body while traveling. (Score 7)



- Repeat the pattern on the tonic for six measures.
- Practice the sequence up to this point; four measures on tonic (do=1), three on the subdominant (fa,=IV), back to the tonic (do=1) for six measures.
- Add one measure on the dominant (so,=V), followed by two measures of tonic (do=I).
- Students move the entire sequence, while you sing the **solfa** or chord numbers.
- Students sing the **solfa** or chord numbers and move.

## PATHWAY TO Ensemble: I-IV-V

When the students successfully demonstrate the chord changes, divide the class in half.
 Half sings the melody while the other half sings the chord roots (using numbers or solfa) on whole notes. Trade parts.



- Acclimate the students to the chord roots on the barred instruments.

  - $\circ$  IV=fa,=C
  - o V= so,=D
- Have some students play the chord roots on the down beat of each measure while the
  rest of the class sings the song. Eventually, this will be played by basses only. For learning

- purposes, get as many students on barred instruments as you can. The goal is to get them to feel when the chord changes occur.
- Help the students identify the pitches in the I chord, the IV chord, and the  $V^7$  chord.
  - I: G B D
  - IV: C E G
  - V<sup>7</sup>: D F# A − C



- Basses play the chord root (either on beat one or the rhythm in the score). All others play two of the chord tones on beat one.
- When students are comfortable negotiating the chord changes, have them play the chords to following rhythm. (Don't forget to swing the eighth notes!)



- Consider asking the students to create a new rhythm pattern to use when playing the two chord tones on the barred instruments. Think of this as the guitar part in a rock band.
- Sing the melody and snap the **GL** part.
- Ask the students to sing and snap with you.
- Transfer the snaps to octave Gs on the GL.
- Put the entire arrangement together.

# This Little Light of Mine

Spiritual/arr. Sams



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