

"Strange Magic" by ELO Glee club

Learning to hear chord tones within a chord, singing 3 part harmony to "Strange Magic" by ELO.

INSPIRE

Learning to hear chord tones within a chord, singing 3 part harmony to "Strange Magic" by ELO.



- What instruments do you see being played in this performance?
- How do you like the blend of the modern band and classical instruments?
- How many back-ups vocalists do you notice? And how many vocal harmonies do you hear

PRACTICE

We are going to practice singing some cool harmonies today!

Begin with warm-ups, on a piano or a guitar, play a broken major chord, 1-3-5-3-1, starting on G3 or A3 (depending on your class's vocal range) and demonstrate the warm-up, using "la-la-la" or "na-na-na" or "who-oo-oo" syllables, then have your students sing together as a class. Start climbing up in half steps till you reach G4 or A4 (last note of the chord would be D5 or E5, respectively), then go down in half steps.

Next, using "who" or "wee" sing 1-3-5-8-5-3-1 scale - with a light and airy sound.

The last warm-up builds the harmony: divide the class into 3 groups, give each group a chord member name: "Roots", "Thirds", "Fifths". Play a major chord and give each group their pitch. Sing it on "who", then play another major chord up half step - have each group go up half-step on their pitch and find the new pitch on their own. Go back down.

Try not spend more than 10-15 minutes on the warm-up.

Then, pick the new key area, have the "Roots" sing 1-2-3-2-1 scale degrees (of a major scale) , "Thirds" 3-4-5-4-3 and "Fifths" 5-6-7-6-5. Play each melody for each group prior to them singing it. Practice all the groups singing it by themselves, then put the groups together one at a time.

Single out the minor chords from the exercise before, such as the chord 2-4-6, asked the students if it's a major or minor chord. Keep the groups the same or make the new 3 or 4 groups, and do the following activity:

On a musical instrument, play Dm7 going to Em7 (the chords at the beginning of the chorus of "Strange Magic") in the tempo of the song or slower. Next, stop at one chord and play it while you have the class find all the pitches that are in this chord -they need to find chord tones on their own. Make sure that everyone participates. Each group needs to have their own chord tone. Next, do the same with the second chord.

Have the class sing the beginning of the chorus using their newly found pitches! You can sing the lead part, or have one of the students do that.

Using the attached pdf, learn the harmonies to the rest of the Chorus. (This part of Chorus is only a 3 part harmony, so you can pick which groups sing the same part, if you have 4 groups.) You can assign the parts (high-middle-low) depending on what the students were singing in the first part of the Chorus.

Students should sing to the teachers' accompaniment.

RECORD

Now it's time to record our own harmony arrangement of the song!

Record the students singing what you practiced.

REFLECT

After watching the recording, ask these questions:

- Did you like the song that we just worked on?
- And what did you think of the sound of harmonies?
- Was it hard for you to find chord tones in a chord or was it easy?
- How hard was it to stick to your own vocal line with other people singing different parts?
- What do you think you need to personally improve on/work on?

TAGS

SUBJECTS

High School Music
Voice

GRADE LEVELS

Ninth
Eleventh
Tenth
Twelfth

SKILLS

Collaboration
Concentration
Critical Reflection
Effective Communication
Memory
Numeracy

MUSICAL SKILLS

Ear Training
Expression
Group Performance
Harmony
Scales
Singing
Theory

TAKE IT FURTHER

- A different chord progression can be added into “Practice” section, with the assignment to find all the pitches that are in the chord.
- You can also add more harmonies to the existing ones, using the same song.
- The class can be divided into smaller groups and made into 4 or 8 part ensembles, where each student either has only one more person singing their part, or they do it on their own.

MATERIALS NEEDED

IOS, Android or Chromebook device, piano or guitar.

DIFFERENTIATIONS

The students can sing to an instrumental track.

SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENTS

Bring back song suggestions that you would want to learn in this class, that have some harmonies. Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students, have them prepare the song singing in a small ensemble.

ACTIVITY

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SKILLS

MUSICAL

Ear Training
Expression
Group Performance
Harmony
Scales
Singing
Theory

EXTRAMUSICAL

Collaboration
Concentration
Critical Reflection
Effective Communication
Memory
Numeracy