

The Orff Teaching Process

By Judy Sills

Process:

The fundamental success of the Orff approach to music education is that it is based on community. That is to say that everything is taught to everybody.

- Present the song in its totality
- Teach the melody on a neutral syllable
- Repeat the melody phrase by phrase, accumulating the phrases until the entire melody is learned
- Teach the words repeating the text several times using a variety of vocal inflections, dynamics and tempi until it is secure
- Add accompaniment parts one at a time beginning with the bass. Each part should be learned by everyone, preferably as body percussion patterns first, followed with a transfer to the instruments
- Add movement if appropriate
- Always remember to allow opportunity for creative input from the children
- Finish with a final performance which incorporates the song with orchestration, movement and creative opportunities such as improvisation between verses of the song.

Remember that the songs and orchestrations are only a basis to provide each teacher with a framework. It is within this framework that teachers choose and adapt materials to fit the particular needs of their classes.

(workshop use only)