

Ms. Desmond - O'Donnell Middle School - 6th Grade Chorus

Name: Starr Desmond

Date: December 6, 2021

Lesson Title: 6th Grade Chorus - Beautiful December

Lesson Objectives/Instructional Outcomes.

Students will be able to:

Sing with proper stance and support by either standing or sitting up tall

Sing "Beautiful December" with the correct rhythms and pitches

Sing "Beautiful December" in unison/two part from the beginning until the end

Sing the line "Beautiful December" with a crescendo

Relationship to Overarching Learning Goals

The piece "Beautiful December" provides a lot of opportunities for new vocal skills and abilities. The arrangement of this song is in unison and two part, so it provides a space where students have a chance to sing in harmony through echo patterns and counter melodies.

This arrangement of "Beautiful December" is in D major and the range of the piece is from C#4 to F#5. The range of this piece allows the students to sing over the break which typically happens around the note B4. The piece allows students to explore the different registers of their voice (chest voice & head voice).

This lesson is one of the many lessons that we have spent working on and learning this piece. This chorus has learned everything but the last page of the piece where the line "Beautiful December" echos back and forth, and the ending couple of notes. Once this is taught, the students will know the entire piece from beginning to end and we can start working on dynamics. In this lesson I will also be conducting, so the students will work on their skills of watching a conductor for cues and cut offs.

Due to COVID, these students have not had the same experiences as previous 6th grade classes. So this year has been their first time singing together in a choral setting since elementary school, and is their first year singing in two-part harmony. So, I have intentionally cut out some of the harmony and splits in the arrangement for a few reasons. One of them being the student's post-COVID level abilities but also because of the short time-frame we have had working on this piece.

The following splits and harmonies have been cut out by my decision: mm 31 (wings), mm 39-41 (dreams, your beautiful December dreams), mm 55-56 (now, when the winter has cast her), and mm 65 (the note F#).

Instructional Materials/Resources:

-Score to "Beautiful December" Unison/Two-Part by Amy Bernon

-Piano/Keyboard

Anticipated Student Misconceptions:

-Rushing at the last page, when adding in the "Beautiful December" echo

-Holding blue for 3 beats at measure 53 on page 6

-Finding the last note on 'oo' after the half rest on the last page

Introduction/Doorway in:

I will start the class with warm ups that will go higher than usual to help them prepare for page 5 of "Beautiful December" In the warm ups we will also work on breath and dynamics through the warm up 'many mumbling mice'. These are also skills that we will be working on in "Beautiful December"

Instructional Activities:

Includes questioning techniques, grouping strategies, pedagogical approaches.

Warm Ups:

Stretch Out - physically waking up the body

Breathing exercise to wake up lungs - In for 4 then out for 8,12,16

Gliding 'mms' to help wake up the voice before singing on vowel shapes and words

Singing on 'oo' (d-r-m-f-s-f-m-r-d) moving upwards

Sighing 'yaws' coming downwards (s-f-m-r-d)

Singing 'Z-Ah' moving upwards (d-s-f-m-r-d)

Many mumbling mice song (breathe in for 4 then sing) - start at one dynamic - then add in crescendo

Beautiful December Review:

Students sing everything we have learned so far

Correct, Praise and Address certain places as needed

After this have the students sing it again, and I will add in the echos on the last page

Beautiful December students sing in 2 parts on last page:

Have students be my echo for the new end to the last 'Beautiful December' that is in unison.

Have part 1 singers be my echo on page 7 with the new ending (have them sing 'A' on the 'oo') part 2 sings track the score

Have part 1 sing their part from page 6 into page 7 with the new ending (have them sing 'A' on the 'oo') part 2 sings track the score

Have part 1 sing their part from page 6 into page 7 with the new ending (have them sing 'A' on the 'oo') part 2 sings track the score (I will sing part 2)

SWAP and do this with the part 2s

have the students try it together in 2 part

Sing through all of Beautiful December:

Students sing everything we have learned so far

Correct, Praise and Address certain places as needed

Try again working more on phrasing and dynamics

Culminating Activity:

-Having their chorus music and being prepared for class

-Participating in the warm up vocally and physically

-Singing "Beautiful December" with proper notes and rhythms

-Watching the conductor (me) for cues and cut offs and demonstrating them as instructed

Differentiation According to Student Needs:

-Use visuals on the board

-Use clear language for directions and repeat if needed

-Be aware of where the student is seated in the room and how they may need certain cues

Assessment (Formative and Summative):

Students actively singing in class the parts I ask them to sing

Working and communicating with their peers

Framework Alignment:

Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for presentation. Identify basic strategies musicians use to practice and employ them in readying a musical work for performance. (7-8.M.P.04)

Perform music, alone or with others, with expression and technical accuracy, and appropriate interpretation. (MU:Pr6.1.4a)

Sing and play music written in 2 parts using appropriate technique. (5-6.M.P.05a)

Develop awareness of where the natural break in one's singing range is located and how to cross the break and even out the voice in this range. (5-6.M.P.05b)