



SOUND ARTS

MUSIC

YEARS 4 -10

lessons at the click of a mouse

STARTING A CLASSROOM BAND

LESSON SIX: A NEW TUNE AND INTRODUCING CHORDAL INSTRUMENTS.

TEACHER INTRODUCTION

When two or more notes are played together on an instrument it is called a chord.

Obviously on single note instruments such as a recorder, this can not be done but chords can be played on guitars, ukuleles, keyboards and even tuned percussion and chime bars.

The chords for each tune are indicated between the melody and harmony lines of each chart. The letter indicates the chord and the --- indicates how many more times the chord is sounded or strummed.

Accompanying a tune with chords brings a new and exciting dimension to your classroom band.

Rather than trying to teach each player to play all the different chords that make up a song, the progression is to teach each chordal player one chord only. If, as in this case, the tune has two chords (G and D), the chordal players will be divided into two groups and each group will be assigned one chord and will play their chord only when indicated on the music.

In subsequent lessons the chordal players will swap over and learn the other chord. Over time, they will then build up a repertoire of chords and will gradually learn to change from one chord to another.

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Have Chart Two on display.
- Have recorder fingering diagrams G, A, B, C, and D on display.
- Have guitar and ukulele chord charts G and D on display.

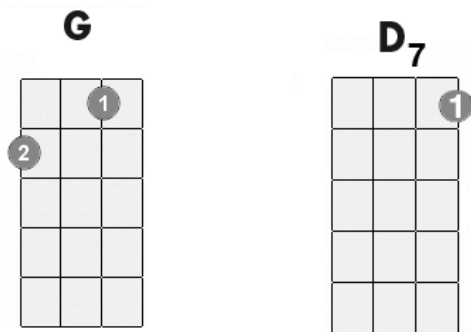
ACTIVITY ONE: NEW TUNE AND REVISION

- Have class clap through both the melody and harmony parts of the chart counting out the time names or using the French time names.
- Revise the note names on the recorders with recorders resting on chins at the ready position and students show the fingering as you call out a note, **eg**
 - show me the fingering for A (two fingers and thumb)
 - show me the fingering for C (thumb and second finger)
 - show me the fingering for G (three fingers and thumb) ...
- Revise positions of notes on the music with the recorder at the ready position on chin while pointing to the note, **eg**
 - show me the fingering for the note found in the second space (A)
 - show me the fingering for the note found around the third line (G) ...

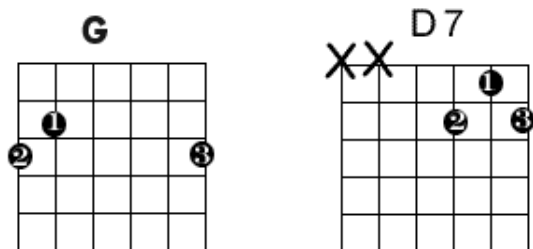
- Have students silently finger through the melody part with students saying the note names as their fingering changes.
- Remind students about good tone and play through the melody line several times.
- Silent finger through and say name notes of the harmony part.
- Introduce some tuned percussion players to the tune and have them play through by themselves and with the recorders.
- Divide the class into melody (tune) and harmony groups with the largest group being melody. Try the following arrangement:
 - Melody and Harmony tuned percussion only
 - Small group (six recorders – 3 on each part)
 - Small group again joined by tuned percussion
 - Melody recorders only
 - Harmony recorders only
 - All instruments play through together.

ACTIVITY TWO: INTRODUCING CHORDS

UKULELE CHORDS



GUITAR CHORDS





LESSON SIX: NEW TUNE AND CHORDAL INSTRUMENTS

- Divide the ukulele and/or guitar players in to two groups – G chord players and D7 players, eg G chord players on the left and D7 players on the right of the room.
- Using the chord charts as a guide, have the students finger their assigned chord. Make sure the tips of the fingers are used and that no other part of the hand dampens the other strings. This takes time to master. Any **X** on the guitar chords means these string are not strummed,
G _ _ _ means the G chord is strummed for times with an even simple downward only strum using the thumb or thumb and first finger held together.
D _ _ _ means that the D chord is played (strummed) 4 times evenly.

The chord pattern for Chart two is as follows:

G _ _ _ D7 _ _ _ G _ _ _ G _ _ _ G _ _ _ D7 _ _ _ G _ _ _ G _ _ _

- Point to the chord indications along the chart and have each group play their one chord when you indicate. Try this several times and have the rest of the class clap quietly to help the chord players strum in time.
- When you revise this chart in following lessons, swap over the chord players who will learn the new chord. Any players who can change from one to another can play both chords.
- Now try the following arrangement:
 - Chordal players and melody recorder players
 - Chordal players and harmony recorder players
 - Tuned percussion – both melody and harmony players
 - Two chordal players (one for each chord) and a small group of melody and harmony recorder players
 - Chordal players and all recorder players
 - All players for the final time.