

David Haiman
3rd Grade Music Lesson Plan
Mississippi John Hurt: "Payday"

Objective: To sing the song "Payday" and an introduction to Mississippi John Hurt

Materials: John Hurt poster and 'Mississippi John Hurt Today' CD (Vanguard Records), CD player, guitar

Procedure: Teacher sings and plays first verse of "Payday." At chorus, repeat for students to join in. Continue singing the other verses:

Pay Day lyrics

Well, I did all I can do, and I can't get along with you
I'm gonna take you to your mama, pay day
Pay day, pay day
I'm gonna take you to your mama, pay day

Well, the rabbit in a log, I ain't got no rabbit dog
And I hate to see that rabbit get away
Get away, get away
And I hate to see that rabbit get away

Well, the hounds are on my track, and knapsack on my back
I'm gonna make it to my shanty 'fore day
'Fore day, 'fore day
I'm gonna make it to my shanty 'fore day

Baby, did all I can do, and I can't get along with you
I'm gonna take you to your mama, pay day
Pay day, pay day
I'm gonna take you to your mama, pay day

Teach each verse by echoing each line to students, having them sing back.

Question students on what each verse is about and explain any lyrics as needed (rabbit dog = a dog to help hunt rabbits; shanty = an old shack; etc.)

Listen to original recording while showing picture of John Hurt. Relate the story of Hurt's "re-discovery" 45 years after his original recording sessions by a folklorist who tracked Hurt down in Avalon, MS. Hurt first thought this fan must be with the FBI:

http://www.celestialmonochord.org/log/2005/05/mississippi_joh.html

Extension: Have students play ostinato (repeating figure) of octave D's on xylophones and/or guitars with low E string tuned down to D.

Evaluation: Record class performance for students to critique what sounds good and what could sound better!

David Haiman
2nd Grade Music Lesson Plan
12 Bar Blues Progression on Xylophones

Objective: To play the root notes of the 12-bar blues progression on xylophones

Materials: Xylophones – wood and/or metal, from bass to soprano

T arranges two Ss per xylophone, reviewing proper playing technique.

Begin by rolling the note C, followed by F, and finally G.

Tell Ss these are the three notes we'll be using to play the blues progression.

Write progression on board for Ss to follow:

C	/F	/C	/C	/
F	/F	/C	/C	/
G	/F/	/C	/G	/

Begin by playing whole notes, then half notes, then quarters.

Extension:

Teach melody to Duke Ellington's "C Jam Blues" and have soprano instruments play this while low instruments continue the progression.

Play recording of Duke Ellington's "C Jam Blues" for Ss to hear. Have a S point to the chord progression to guide the class' listening.

David Haiman
Kindergarten Music Lesson Plan
Leadbelly: "Good Morning Blues"

Objective: To sing and dance to a blues by Leadbelly

Materials: Guitar, Leadbelly Sings for Children CD, CD player

Begin with vocal warm-up incorporating melodic phrases from the song.

T sings and plays "Good Morning Blues" with Ss patting beat on lap.

Good morning blues, blues how do you do
Good morning blues, blues how do you do
I'm doing all right well, good morning how are you.

I lay down last night, turnin' from side to side
Oh, turnin' from side to side
I was not sick, I was just dissatisfied.

When I got up this mornin', you know the blues walking
'round my bed,
Aaah, the blues walking 'round my bed
I went to eat my breakfast, the blues was all in my bread.

Blues you're drivin' me crazy, what am I gonna do?
Aaah, what am I gonna do?
I ain't got nobody to take my little troubles to.

Teach one verse at a time, emphasizing the vocal swoop on the "Aaah's".

Play original recording for Ss to dance to!

Extensions:

Student solos, making up your own verses, making movements to go with lyrics.