

Performing – Chords

Learning Intentions

Pupils are learning to:

- **develop** an understanding of chords and their use in accompanying a melody;
- **perform** chords; and
- give and respond to feedback (Working with Others).

Suggested Success Criteria

Pupils can:

- perform the chords of C, G and F major as block and broken chords; and
- work collaboratively, giving and responding to feedback, to perform melodies and chords.

Learning Activities

Introduction

Discuss the learning intentions and success criteria relating to this activity with your pupils.

- What is a chord?
- How could you perform a chord and on which instruments?

Activity

Explain how we can use chords as an accompaniment to melodies. Demonstrate how to work out the triads of C major, G major and F major.

Ask your pupils to work out and play the chords C, G and F. Encourage them to explore:

- block chords; and
- broken chords.

Ask your pupils, working in pairs, to work out the appropriate chord to fit with the melodies of, for example:

- *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* (starting on the note C); and
- *This Old Man* (starting on the note G).

Ensure that each pupil takes turns playing the chordal accompaniment and the melody. Listen to their performances and ask your pupils for feedback on the effectiveness of their performances. Explain how we can accompany many melodies using only three chords.

Extension activity

Ask your pupils to notate their melody with the appropriate chord written above the melodic line. Encourage them to try to work out chord accompaniments to more challenging and complex melodies. They could extend this work further by making up a chord pattern using C, G and F and improvising their own melody over this chord pattern.

If you have access to GarageBand on iPad, encourage your pupils to use the guitar feature to play chord sequences for accompanying a melody on another iPad, using a different virtual instrument.

Plenary

- What was the most difficult aspect of this activity?
- How did you overcome this?
- How did you support your partner in learning to perform chords?
- How have you improved your ability to work with others?