



Mini-Lesson: Texture

OVERVIEW

René Clausen effectively uses a variety of textures throughout *The Golden Queen* to enhance the poetry. This lesson will help students understand and perform these textures with skill.

LEARNING GOAL

Students will identify changing texture and call and response in the music by sight and sound, and experience the effect that these techniques can have on the music.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- *The Golden Queen* sheet music
- Recording of *The Golden Queen* ([click link to download](#) or email ChoralQuest@composersforum.org for a free Catalog CD)
- Recordings of music that contain monophonic, homophonic and polyphonic textures

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

- Students have sung rounds and canons
- Students know that all vocal parts in brackets are sung at the same time

PROCESS

1. Discuss how the students sometimes sing in unison, and at other times in harmony. Have a discussion about texture in music (monophonic, homophonic, and polyphonic). What texture does the composer not use in *The Golden Queen*?
2. After rehearsing *The Golden Queen* several times, ask students where in the music they sing the same words and pitches together. Review the term “monophonic”

- Show how voice parts “line up” in unison (monophonic) singing: mm. 52-53

52

f

A green sprout shoots out of the ground,

f

A green sprout shoots out of the ground,

unis. *f*

A green sprout shoots out of the ground,

- Follow the same procedure for homophonic (each part sings different pitches at the same time) sections: mm. 48-51

48

f

wake, Pre - par - ing it - self for the great path it will take.

f

wake, Pre - par - ing it - self for the great path it will take.

f

wake, Pre - par - ing it - self for the great path it will take.

3. Have students look at the score and identify where the voices seem to answer each other. Discuss Call and Response. Sing these sections. Ask: How has the composer enhanced the text with call and response?
4. Discuss the use of texture as it relates to the poem. Does changing the texture help get across the meaning of the text?

ASSESSMENT

Students can enhance the meaning of the text in their singing by understanding texture changes found in the music.

EXTENSIONS

1. Explore texture in other choral works, through analysis or listening.
2. Students in groups may develop a choral reading of the text, using both call and response and varying textures and dynamics.