

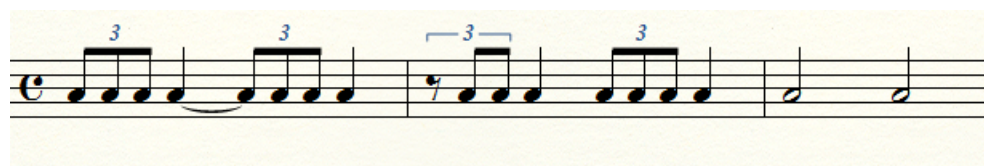


Vocal Warm-Ups for *Thinking of My Home*

The following warm-ups may be used in conjunction with rehearsal strategies found in the Skill Builder Lessons.

RHYTHMIC ACCURACY - SYNCOPATION IN EIGHTH, DOTTED NOTES AND TRIPLET RHYTHMS

In preparation for teaching *Thinking of My Home*, consider highlighting these syncopated rhythm patterns, reinforcing them as a part of your rehearsal. Practice clapping and counting the following rhythms, and create new patterns from one rehearsal to the next. Strive to make the rhythms very fluid—often a characteristic of Chinese music.



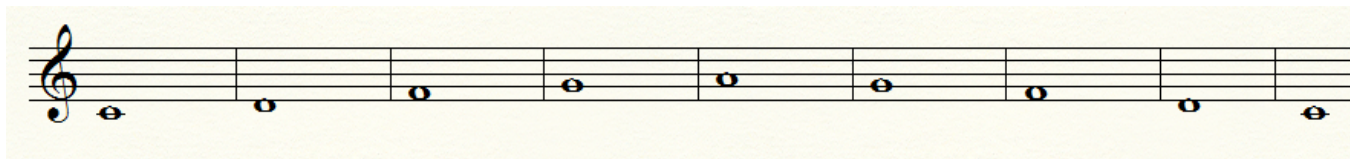
Follow this activity with Skill Builder [Lesson #1 – Rhythmic Accuracy](#).

SINGING IN PENTATONIC MODE

Thinking of My Home requires singers to sing in pentatonic mode, both in unison and in harmony. Chinese music uses five variations of the pentatonic scale. The form used in this piece is known as the “Zhi” pentatonic scale, one of five pentatonic scales used in Chinese music.

Practice singing a C major scale in solfege until students sing with good intonation.

Sing the following pentatonic scale using solfege syllables until students can sing the pitches accurately. (Note that the pentatonic scale below is structured to coincide with C major, the key of the piece.)



Do

Re

Fa

Sol

La

Sol

Fa

Re

Do

Then, divide students into five groups, and have each group in turn sing scale pitches; repeat with students holding each pitch as the succeeding groups add their note.

Fa-----

Re-----

Do----- etc

SINGING WITH LEGATO PHRASING

As noted previously, the pentatonic scale is frequently used in Chinese music. The beauty of singing in pentatonic mode is that pitches of the scale sound pleasing in any way that they are combined.

Take short legato lines from *Thinking of My Home* and sing on a neutral syllable in call-and-response style to help achieve good legato phrasing, breath control and dynamic balance.

Teachers may use newly-composed music for this activity as well. Follow this by rehearsing mm. 7-8 in *Thinking of My Home*, applying the same rehearsal procedure to the music.



Other possible sections for this exercise include mm.15-17 and 20-22.

SINGING HARMONY IN PENTATONIC MODE

The following short passages are adapted from measures in *Thinking of My Home* which require students to sing more challenging harmonies with intervals of the 2nd. Teachers may also wish to create additional patterns.

Practice the following passages until students can hold each part securely with good intonation. Consider using solfege syllables, neutral vowels, for the “Yue,” “Ye” and “Woo” syllables from the text.

The image displays two systems of musical notation, each consisting of three staves. The first system is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The top staff begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G4 and a half note A4. The middle staff begins with a whole note G4. The bottom staff begins with a whole note G4. The second system is marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The top staff begins with a half note G4, a half note A4, and a quarter note G4. The middle staff begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G4 and a half note A4. The bottom staff begins with a whole note G4. All staves are in 4/4 time and use a treble clef.

Follow this exercise with the rehearsal process found in Skill Builder [Lesson #2 – Singing Harmony with Intervals of a 2nd](#).