



Lesson: Vocal Production/Intonation with 3-Part Harmony

OVERVIEW

When I Sing provides singers an opportunity to improve their intonation and vocal balance while singing in 3-part harmony.

NATIONAL STANDARD

National Standard: Performing/Rehearse, Evaluate and Refine Mu:Pr5.

Evaluate and refine personal and ensemble performances, individually or in collaboration with others.

LEARNING GOAL

Students will demonstrate their ability to sing in 3-part harmony with good intonation and vocal balance when they perform *When I Sing*.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- Music score for *When I Sing*
- [Recording](#) of *When I Sing*
- Recordings of 3-part choral music that feature similar harmonic blend

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Students can:

- sing scales in solfege, as well as a variety of simple step and skip patterns.
- sing successfully in 2-part harmony

PROCESS

Singing in solfege supports good intonation and vocal blend, especially when singing in harmony. There are several places in *When I Sing* where this can be practiced easily: mm. 9-12, mm. 23-27, mm 31-46, mm. 55-63, mm. 72-92, mm. 83-87.

1. Example: mm. 47-51. Sing the following measures individually in solfege:

The musical score for measures 47-51 is as follows:

Measure	Soprano	Alto	Tenor
47	Rest	Rest	Rest
48	mi fa	mi re mi mi re	do la
49	sol sol mi fa	mi mi re mi	sol sol la do
50	sol mi mi mi fa	mi do	sol
51	sol mi	mi do	sol

- When each part can be sung with good intonation, switch voices so that students can sing all parts successfully. This can be done over several rehearsals, or as a rehearsal warm-up.
- Begin with one voice and gradually add parts until students can sing the measures in tune with good balance
- Switch from solfege to text.
- Use a similar procedure in other suggested measures.

2 Example: mm.72-82. This section is challenging because the Soprano and Alto parts enter in a syncopated pattern after several measures of rest.

- Practice clapping Voices 1 and 2 and Voice 3 rhythms separately, and then together. See [Lesson on Rhythmic Accuracy/Syncopation](#).
- Sing all parts individually in solfege. If this is too difficult, substitute a neutral syllable at first.
- Gradually add parts, beginning with Voice 3. Continue combining voices until the 3-Part texture can be sung with accurate intonation and rhythm.

3 Use this procedure in other places in the song if necessary.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be able to sing 3-part harmony with good intonation and vocal blend.

EXTENSION

- Students sing selected passages (in sets of 3 or multiples) for the class. This can be used as an assessment tool as well.
- Listen to sections of other recordings that feature a good 3-part harmonic blend among the voices.
- Students identify where this type of singing occurs in other music they are rehearsing and performing.