

Steps to Melodic Independence:

Build Song & Melodic Pattern Vocabulary

Give students a strong vocabulary of songs and melodic patterning so they begin to develop a fluency with the language of melody.

“Take it from a song”

Copy a measure from a known song to sing then write.

Rearrange a known song

Transfer of learning. Can the students sing the patterns not in song order.

Motivic Singing

Singing a melodic pattern, but changing the rhythmic content. This is also known as “making it fancy”

Chain Singing

students stand in a circle and each student sings a melodic pattern (either given or improvised) and the next student attempts to make a copy, or do the opposite, or make it fancy.

Pitch ladder with strategies

Using a pitch ladder visual, students use the melodic strategies to improvise their own melodic pattern.

Melodic Dictation 4 or 8 beats

Rote dictation, then independent dictation of 4 or 8 beats on whiteboards. This helps students understand how to write ideas down. Should be done both with stick notation and staff notation.

Instrument Playing & Improvisation

Playing known songs and creating with patterns on fixed pitch instruments helps train the ears.

Song Transcription

Copying, notating & singing known song material is like a spelling test or transcribing a known poem.

Whiteboard 4 beat melodic Pattern

students improvise a 4 beat melodic pattern, sing it, then write it on whiteboards

Whiteboard 16 beat Melodic Composition

students improvise a 16 beat melodic composition, sing it, then write it on whiteboards

Paper/Pencil Composition (Summative Assessment)

Students improvise a 16 beat melodic composition, sing it, then write it down

