

# Ooh La La Lay

*Ooh la la lay,  
Another evening fades away!  
I know the golden sun won't disappear for long  
Because tomorrow's another day.*

A cool and uplifting jazz-flavoured song about the end of the day, sunset and the hope of a new tomorrow. This is a great song to sing with your class or choir at the end of any school day.

## Starter Activity

- The starter activity in this session is a variation on this rhythm and pulse game below.

Hey, there, clap - pers, I'm a real cool cat, With a  
(Clapping to the pulse (x8))

lit - tle bit of this and a lit - tle bit of that. I can  
(Move both hands horizontally to left (x4)) Move both hands horizontally to right (x4))

stretch up high, I can bend down low, And  
(Push arms up high (x4)) Push arms down low (x4))

that's the way the pulse does go!  
(Fingers point from left to right (x8))

- All actions are performed on the pulse, even though the words are sometimes syncopated, making sure that the pulse goes through to the rest at the end. Other actions may be substituted in the first line, e.g. tappers, clickers, stampers, etc.
- This activity is great for developing a sense of pulse underlying more complex rhythms, so is a great starting point for any session, but especially before singing songs that singers might be tempted to rush, such as Ooh La La Lay. In addition, the third line of the activity contains one particular rhythm – on the words “stretch up high” and “bend down low” – that we will need for our song for the words “la la lay”, “fades away”, “sun wont di-“ and “-nother day”.

## Useful Warmups

- Airflow – why not experiment with breath using the sounds “ff/ss/ssh” but sounded to the rhythm of the lines from the song? Check out the video to see an example in the warm-up.
- Vocal Range - In preparation for the opening word of the song, have fun sliding around your voice using “ooh”. Make sure to explore extremes of vocal range and then the starting note will feel much easier.
- Articulation - get ready to tackle the lyrics in the song with an exercise using some of the syllables from the song itself.



Repeat this across a comfortable vocal range, concentrating on the movement of the tongue in the “la la la” and on making a lovely open vowel sound on “lay”. You can hear this in action in the warm-up in the video.

## 🎵 Teaching Tips

1. This song is full of interesting rhythms that add to the effect of the song. Make sure to isolate these moments and check that everyone is singing the rhythm of the following correctly. Look in particular at:
  - a. Evening fades away
  - b. Golden sun won't disappear for long
  - c. Another day

## 👁️ Things To Look Out For

1. The third line of the song leads directly into the final one, so there simply is not time to take a breath. We suggest taking a breath after “won't” in the third line so that your young singers have enough air to make it through to the end of the song. This also gives the desired emphasis on “disappear”, so is a particularly effective place to breathe.
2. Singers will be really tempted to rush through the words “golden sun disappear for long”, so be mindful of that and show a strong pulse here. Why not also have your singers step or pat their chests in time as they learn this section.

## 👤 Extension Activities / Cross Curricular Links

1. This song is fantastic as a four-part round. A good way of building up to that is dividing your singers into two groups and seeing if one group can loop the last line as an ostinato, while the others sing the song over the top.
2. This song can be really effective as an encore in a performance, where the last line can be looped at the end as all your singers exit the stage.
3. Why not ask your students to write alternative lyrics, but this time about the rising – rather than setting – sun.

## 🎵 Musical Terms

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Rhythm      | Patterns of long and short sounds, many different rhythms can fit into one 'beat'   |
| Pulse       | The basic beat or heartbeat of the music, see also 'beat'   |
| Syncopation | Occurs when a rhythmic pattern that typically occurs on strong beats or strong parts of the beat occurs instead on weak beats or weak parts of the beat |
| Ostinato    | A short melodic phrase repeated throughout a song   |
| Round       | A round tends to have several different phrases, which are sung one after the other, and then stacked at different times to create harmony              |

