

## Poor Wayfaring Stranger

*I'm just a poor, wayfaring stranger  
While travelling through this land of woe  
Yet, there's no sickness, toil nor danger  
In that fair land to which I go.  
I'm going there to see my father  
I'm going there no more to roam  
I'm only going over Jordan  
I'm only going over home*

This is a beautiful North American folksong in a minor key which is about holding onto hope in the midst of difficulty.

### 🎵 Starter Activity

- To start with work on long breaths getting the children to 'shh' whilst drawing a rainbow in front of them. Encourage them to make the sound strong and consistent throughout and to maintain good posture.
- This can be developed into a voiced sound (e.g. zzzzz or vvvvv) and also moved into a sirenian exercise bringing the voice from low to high following your finger through the air.

### 🎵 Useful Warmups

- This is a great song to explore the minor key and all its dramatic potential.
- Start by singing a simple pattern using the first 5 notes of a minor scale, as shown below



- Then add words depicting various emotions which you sing to the pattern e.g. 'I'm a very sad, I am really angry, I'm extremely scared. Note – make sure that you act using your face and your body as well as your voices.

### 🎵 Teaching Tips

- This song has some long phrases and covers a wide range. In particular the 'I'm going there...' lines may seem high to some singers. Encourage the singers to think about the sound coming over the top of their head like a hood.

### 🎵 Things To Look Out For

- Watch that the children don't take lots of extra breathes in the middle of lines. If they are struggling you can work on this by getting them to zzzz or vvvv through the melody to build up breathe control.

## **Extension Activities / Cross Curricular Links**

- You may like to think about creating a back story for this song. Who is the person singing? Where are they and why do they want to be somewhere else?

## **Glossary of Musical Terms**

<b>Minor</b>	The minor scale is a pattern of notes which create a soundworld or tonality for a song. In Solfa the scale starts on 'la' (as opposed to a major scale which starts on 'do')
<b>Tonality</b>	Also often called the key, this is the set of notes which a song uses.

