

## Oh, How Lovely is the Evening

*Oh, how lovely is the evening, is the evening,  
When the bells are sweetly ringing, sweetly ringing,  
Ding dong, ding dong, ding dong.*

This song sets the scene of a beautiful evening when one can hear church bells ringing in the distance. The simple melody of this song makes it accessible to all classes, while the possibilities in terms of refining it offer a challenge to more experienced singers.

### 🎵 Starter Activity

- The starter activity in this session is a short poem:

The evening is coming, the sun sinks to rest,  
The crows are all flying straight home to their nests.  
“Caw” says the crow, as she flies overhead,  
The chimes on the clock say it’s soon time for bed!

- The Virtual Singing Assembly featured actions for each of these lines, which you could use exactly as demonstrated or as inspiration for your own actions.

### 🔔 Useful Warmups

- Physical – taking inspiration from the restful nature of the poem, encourage your singers to think about waking up and energising themselves. You could try stretching, throwing the curtains open, rolling shoulders, chin to chest and ceiling, looking over one shoulder, then the other, circle with the nose, pulling on ears, massaging the jaw and a big yawn.
- Airflow – breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth. On the exhalation, add different sounds, e.g. ff, ss, ssh, vv, zz zzh and so on.
- Primal Sound – using “hmm” trying humming the first five notes of the melody of the song. This will help your singers connect to the voice, but also begin to familiarise them with the start of the melody (saving time later).
- Range – use brr, rr and blowing raspberries to explore the voice from low to high and high to low.
- Resonance – using the “ding dong” from the song is a great way to encourage singers to find the right place for the singing voice. Try this at different pitches.

### 🎵 Teaching Tips

- This song needs to be as smooth and as soft as possible, with a real sense of one in a bar (rather than three) and real attention to the echoes.
- Really enjoy the difference in dynamics between the start of the phrase (moderately loud) and the echo part of the phrase (very soft).

### 👁️ Things To Look Out For

- There is a little breath before the echo in the first two lines: make sure this is never snatched or noisy, but make the breath as calm as the music.

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

- Singing it as a round – this song is very beautiful when sung as a three-part round.
- Why not discuss the use of bells with the children. The bells in this song are almost certainly church bells, but for what else do we use bells? Some possible answers might be: lunch bell, doorbell, alarm clock, fire alarm, handbells, Big Ben.

## **Glossary of Musical Terms**

<b>Dynamics</b>	In music, dynamics is the difference in volume between musical phrases or notes.
<b>Legato</b>	To move between notes smoothly.
<b>Phrase</b>	A single unit of music that makes complete sense when heard on its own, a bit like sentences. Songs are made of musical phrases.
<b>Round</b>	A musical composition in which a minimum of three voices sing exactly the exactly the same melody, but with each voice starting a different time. As different parts of the melody coincide in the different voices, they fit harmoniously together.

