

Viva La Musica

*Viva, viva la musica,
Viva, viva la musica,
Viva la musica*

A fun and upbeat song which translates as 'Long live music!' This is a great song to sing with your class, choir or singing assembly.

Starter Activity

- The starter activity in this session is this call and response below.

Teacher CALL: The beat, the beat, the beat is in my feet The

Student RESPONSE: The beat, the beat, the beat is in my feet

Teacher CALL: beat is like my heart beat The beat ne-ver chan-ges

Student RESPONSE: The beat is like my heart beat The beat ne-ver chan-ges

Teacher CALL: You can go fast or slow but the beat stays the same The

Student RESPONSE: You can go fast or slow but the beat stays the same

- Keep the beat steady in your feet whilst marching, you can add the beat on your chest too.
- This activity is great for developing a sense of pulse underlying more complex rhythms, so is a great starting point for any session.

Useful Warmups

- Airflow – why not experiment with breath using the sounds “ff/vv/zzz” 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 “vvv”. Make sure to explore extremes of vocal range and then the starting note will feel much easier.

3. Pitching – we used our face to show the different pitches, high, medium and low, using the sounds “vi” and “moo”. We also showed the opening few notes of each phrase from the song. This will help the students when it comes to learning the song.

Teaching Tips

1. This song has a nice range, just an octave. The song starts on the highest note so make sure your students take a lovely big breath before they start.

Things To Look Out For

1. The students can find it tricky to find the pitch at the start of the second line, so doing the face pitching exercise can help them with this. You could also show the starting pitch up high with your hand, the pitch of the second line in the middle and the last line down low or even put it on the body, head (high), chest (medium), stomach (low).
2. Singers could be tempted to rush through each line, 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 the song.

Extension Activities / Cross Curricular Links

1. This song is fantastic as a three-part round. A good way of building up to that is dividing your singers into three groups and each group takes a line of the song and loops it. When they know the song well enough you can then put it in a three-part round, remember to get student leaders out to help you.
2. The translation of this song means “Long Live Music” in both Spanish and Italian, why don’t you ask your students to find out how to say “Long Live Music” in other languages.

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’
Octave	An octave is the distance between two notes with the same letter name. They are 8 notes apart eg. C-C
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds
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

