



## SHAMROCK PITCHES

### **Small Group Activity** for Rehearsal Near St. Patrick's Day

#### Instructions:

- Copy the page on a nice Kelly green paper; cut out the shamrocks (they can be square or round pieces if you don't want to cut too carefully!) You'll need three shamrocks per child for some of the activities.
- There are lots of ways to go with this one, depending on the children! If you've already worked some solfeg with them (do-re-mi-fa-sol, etc.), this will be a good reinforcement; if it's new to them, it will take a little longer!
- If it's new to them, you'll need to explain the three words; be sure you sing the relative pitches as you explain. One way to establish the pitches is to attach them to choir chimes; put the do shamrock on the C, the mi shamrock on an E, and the sol shamrock on a G.

Establish "do" with the children; use a choir chime to re-establish throughout the exercise (unless you have perfect pitch!).

- Stack a handful of the shamrocks in random order... with the first and last ones "do"; hold them up like flash cards and have the group sing them (with your help if needed). Shuffle the pitches and go again, creating a new tune.
- Pass the stack to one of the children and let them create the new tune.
- You can take this a step further by establishing a beat (4/4, 3/4, etc.), and having the children keep the steady beat while you show them the shamrocks (flash card style) on the first beat of each pattern; this could sound something like this: do 2 3 4, sol 2 3 4, mi 2 3 4, do 2 3 4, etc.
- Another Option: (music reading) Lay the shamrocks out in left-to-right random order and have the children sing the melody you've created; rearrange them and go again; have the children create melodies.
- Another Option: (ear-training) Give each child a set of shamrocks (do, mi, sol). Re-establish do for them; as you sing one of the three pitches (or play them on the choir chimes) have them hold up the pitch you sing.
- Another Option: (instrument playing) With the choir chimes – attach "do" to C, "mi" to E, "sol" to G, and "do" to the higher octave C. Give one chime to four children. Have them all four play at once to create a major chord; they'll be amazed at how good it sounds! Then call out one of the four pitches and have them play different patterns, arpeggios, etc. You can lay out the shamrocks (as in the music reading option above) and have them play the melodies.
- Another Option: (visualizing the music) Make a five-line staff with a treble clef; place the "do" on the F space, "mi" on the A space, and "sol" on the C space. If stacked above each other they form a chord; if spread out across the measure they create a melody. Use several shamrocks to create melodies for the children to sing or play.