

O•17 Troika

INSTRUMENTATION


SG/AG	□	D	E	□	G	A	□	□	D	E	□	G	A
BX	□	D	E	□	G	A	B	□	D	E	□	□	A

slap stick (whip), tambourine, sleigh bells

FORM

Introduction: Last 4 measures of BX and sleigh bells
 Song: Voices with *tutti* instruments

NOTEWORTHY

Rhythm: 
 Tonality: E (harmonic) minor
 Form: Verse/Refrain (AB) form

TEACHING THE ORCHESTRATION

1. Teach the bass xylophone and temple block parts for Verse (mm. 1–8).

Have students:

- Sing measures 1–8 and pat eighth notes, then transfer to temple blocks.
- Mirror as you model playing measures 1–4 of the BX part, singing the pitches with letter names; repeat while some students sing the melody of the song.
- Repeat above with measures 5–8 of the BX part.
- Sing measures 1–8 and accompany with BX and TB.

2. Teach the bass xylophone and sleigh bells part for the Refrain (mm. 9–16).

Have students:

- Review arpeggiated bordun techniques, starting each one on D, E, G, and A (see score), crossing over and back with the rhythm



(You may wish to divide up the part between two players, each taking two chords to learn and play—but you will need two instruments.)

- Mirror you as you play the refrain of the BX part, calling out the chord changes.
- Play steady eighth notes on sleigh bells.
- Sing the refrain with BX, sleigh bells, and TB, then sing the song with all parts learned so far (to practice going back to the verses).

3. Teach the soprano and alto glockenspiels part.

Have students:

- Mirror you patting measures 1–6 of the SG/AG part; show *glissandos* with a hand moving R-L (“up”) and L-R (“down”) (teacher’s perspective).
- Transfer to SG/AG, mirroring you as you sing pitch letter names and play in the air, then play octaves on SG/AG.



E E E E D D D D up down up down

- Work in the same three groups as above to sing and play the verse.
- Work in two groups to (1) sing the refrain and (2) with mallets in the air, “play” and sing the SG/AG pitch letter names:

Hur-ry coach- man, with the troi-ka,
 E A
 Hur-ry hors - es though the snow.
 D G
 To the win - ter cel - e - bra-tion,
 E A
 To the vil - lage far be - low.
 up down up down

- Sing the refrain with the SG/AG part.
- Sing the refrain with all parts learned so far, then practice returning to the verse (A section).

4. Teach the slap stick (whip) part.

Have students:

- Sing the song, following you as you clap the slap stick part.
- Transfer the claps to slap stick and sing the song again. (Cue students as needed.)

5. Sing the complete song with instrumental accompaniment.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CREATIVITY

Have students:

- Work in groups to develop an extended form with enough repetitions for an effective dance length, perhaps alternating between the sung verses and instrumental repetitions.
- Explore melody instruments played by students in the class (keyboard, recorder, guitar, or band/orchestra instruments) for the instrumental repetitions.
- Perform the dance (Pupil page 231) as others sing the song and/or play the accompaniment.
- Form small groups (4–6 students) and compose a body percussion piece based on rhythms used in the melody and accompaniment. Selected pieces may be used as interludes for a performance of “Troika.”