

We Come to Greet You in Peace

(Hevenu Shalom Aleichem)

Hebrew Folk Song

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a Dm chord and contains the lyrics: "We come to greet you in peace, He - ve - nu sha - lom a - lei - chem, We come to greet you in He - ve - nu sha - lom a -". The second staff continues with "peace, lei - chem, We come to greet you in peace, We come to He - ve - nu sha - lom a - lei - chem, He - ve - nu". The third staff starts with an A7 chord and includes a first ending (marked '1') and a second ending (marked '2'). The lyrics for the first ending are "greet you, greet you, sha - lom, sha - lom, greet you in peace. We come to sha - lom a - lei - chem. He - ve - nu". The lyrics for the second ending are "greet you in peace sha - lom a - lei - chem.".

Lyrics (English):

We come to greet you in peace,
 We come to greet you in peace,
 We come to greet you in peace,
 We come to greet you, greet you, greet you in peace.
 (Repeat)

Lyrics (Hebrew):

Hevenu shalom aleichem,
 Hevenu shalom aleichem,
 Hevenu shalom aleichem,
 Hevenu shalom, shalom, shalom Aleichem.
 (Repeat)

SINGING

Discuss with the students that this is a Hebrew song with an English translation. The original Hebrew song lyrics are more interesting and musical than the English lyrics, a loss which is often the case with foreign language translations. The lyrics are simple and are meant to be sung while dancing. Have the students learn one melody phrase at a time. Since the phrases are similar a careful listening and accurate repeat are necessary. Once the phrases are learned practice the song until it can be sung at a light, quick tempo.

PLAYING

Culturally appropriate accompaniment would be on doumbeks (Arabic drums) and shepherd pipes. For classroom purposes any light hand drum and recorders will do. Have students practice the following 8 count rhythm pattern until comfortable: ta, ti-ti, ta, ti-ti, ta, ta, ta, ta, with body percussion and then with drums. On soprano recorders have the students play a simple descant on "A", "B flat", and "G". Or for more experienced players, replace the low "A" with "D" and the whole melody can be played on recorder. For textual interest add a tambourine.

CREATING

Using the instruments indicated above, have students work in small groups to create an accompaniment for the song. Consider adding an introduction, interlude, and coda to make the accompaniment "form" more interesting. If desired, have more than one drum part and more than one recorder part playing at the same time. In addition to the tambourine, explore the use of additional instruments to add textural interest to the song accompaniment.

LISTENING

The secret to playing together is in listening and feeling the beat together. After the students have created their accompaniment for the song, have them practice until everyone in the "ensemble" can hear and feel their part in harmony with the other parts being played.

INTEGRATION (Fine Arts – Dance)

As mentioned, "We Come to Greet You in Peace" is a song for singing and dancing. Add the following dance steps to the performance of the song. (The down beat is on the word "greet".) The steps should be light and easy. The dance is performed in a circle, begins by starting to the right on the right foot, with the hands joined and held low.

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| 8 counts | Step-hop, step-hop, run, run, run, run. |
| (3 X) | (Repeat 3 times, once for each "greet you in peace" phrase) |
| 8 counts | (In place facing the center of the circle) |
| | Step-hop, step-hop, jump, jump, jump, jump. |