



Vocal Music Virtual Learning

**7th Grade Choir**

**Vocal Technique Guided Practice**

May 20, 2020



## 7th Grade Choir Lesson: May 20, 2020

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

To learn and perform 3 simple songs that can be performed while practicing good vocal technique.



# Warm-Up Activity

Find a recording of your favorite song on YouTube, and sing along to the song. As you sing, practice taking deep breaths before each phrase:

1. Your mouth and throat are open
2. Your shoulders and collarbones are set and not moving
3. Your ribs expand outward as you feel your diaphragm open up the bottom half of your lungs



# 2nd Warm-Up Activity

Find a recording of your favorite song on YouTube, and sing along to the song. As you sing, practice maximizing your resonating chambers:

1. Your throat is open and relaxed
2. Your jaw is dropped low and you are making space in your mouth
3. You are focusing your sound through the “mask” in your face



# Practicing good vocal technique

Yesterday we reviewed some of the fundamental concepts to singing with good technique. Today, we are going to attempt to put those ideas into practice.

We are going to learn 3 simple songs (you may already know them!) that we can use as tools to practice our fundamentals of singing.



# Good Literature

Have you ever tried to sing along to your favorite song on the radio, and found that by the end your voice was really tired? Or maybe you don't feel like you can sing one section of the song because it goes too high or too low?

Music on the radio is sung by professionals, who often have quite a bit of training and experience. Trying to sing that music yourself is fun! But sometimes it can encourage bad singing habits.



# Good Literature

The three songs we will look at today are all simple songs that should not take a lot of work to learn the words and notes to.

On top of that, they do not typically stress your range or require you to sing in a way that may put strain on your voice.

For each one, we are going to follow a simple process for how to practice the song.

# Rehearsal process

1. Read the words on the page introducing the song. These are the lyrics you will sing. Read them out loud a few times, and practice saying them with tall, open vowels.
2. Read the lyrics again, and practice taking a deep, relaxed breath before each sentence. Use that air to support your voice as you speak each sentence like you are an actor reading lines on a stage



# Rehearsal process

3. Now listen to the song being sung in the example video. Use this video to learn the notes and rhythm of the song.
4. Listen to the singer again and pay attention to when the breathe and what their vowels sound like.
5. Practice singing along with the video. As you sing, focus on keeping good posture, taking proper breaths, and supporting your sound.

# Rehearsal process

6. Once you feel like you have learned the song completely, try singing the song with the accompaniment track (the one without any voice singing).
7. Start by just focusing on being musically independent with the music backing you up.
8. Once you feel comfortable with how your part goes, refocus on your posture, breathing, and tone. Can you make yourself sound more mature as you sing?



# Song number one: This Land is Your Land

This land is your land, and this land is my  
land

From the California, to the New York Island  
From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf  
stream waters

This land was made for you and me

As I went walking that ribbon of highway  
I saw above me that endless skyway  
Saw below me the golden valley  
This land was made for you and me

I roamed and rambled, and I've followed my  
footsteps

To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts  
All around me a voice was sounding  
This land was made for you and me

When the sun come shining, then I was strolling  
And the wheat fields waving and the dust  
clouds rolling  
A voice was chanting as the fog was lifting  
This land was made for you and me

# This Land is Your Land: Original



# This Land is Your Land: Updated version



# This Land is Your Land: Karaoke version





## Song number two: Lean On Me

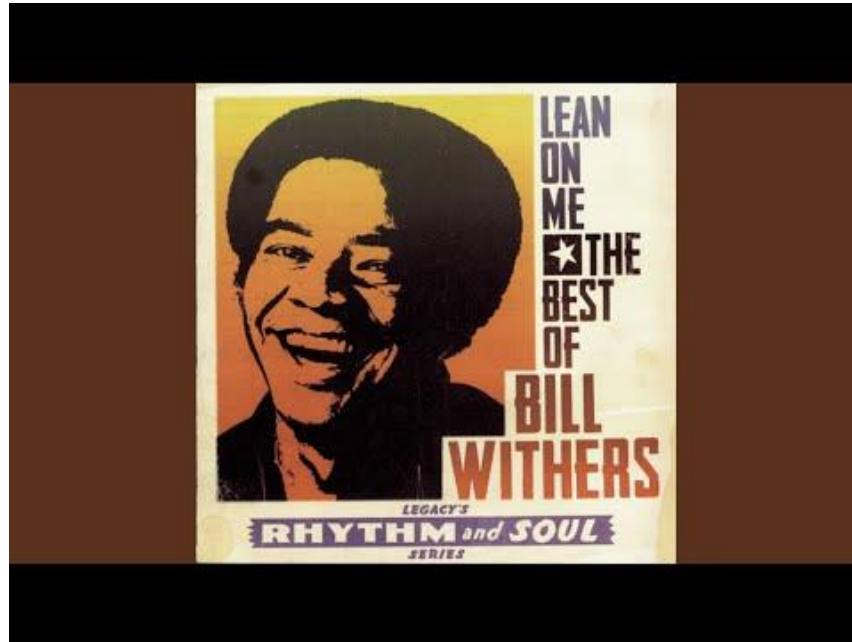
Sometimes in our lives we all have pain  
We all have sorrow  
But if we are wise  
We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend  
I'll help you carry on  
For it won't be long  
'Til I'm gonna need  
Somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride  
If I have things you need to borrow  
For no one can fill those of your needs  
That you won't let show

You just call on me brother, when you need a  
hand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
I just might have a problem that you'll  
understand  
We all need somebody to lean on

# Lean On Me: Original (Bill Withers)





# Lean On Me: Karaoke version





## Song number three: Danny Boy

Oh, Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling  
From glen to glen, and down the mountain side.  
The summer's gone, and all the roses falling,  
It's you, it's you must go and I must bide.

But come ye back when summer's in the  
meadow,  
Or when the valley's hushed and white with  
snow,  
It's I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow,  
Oh, Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so!

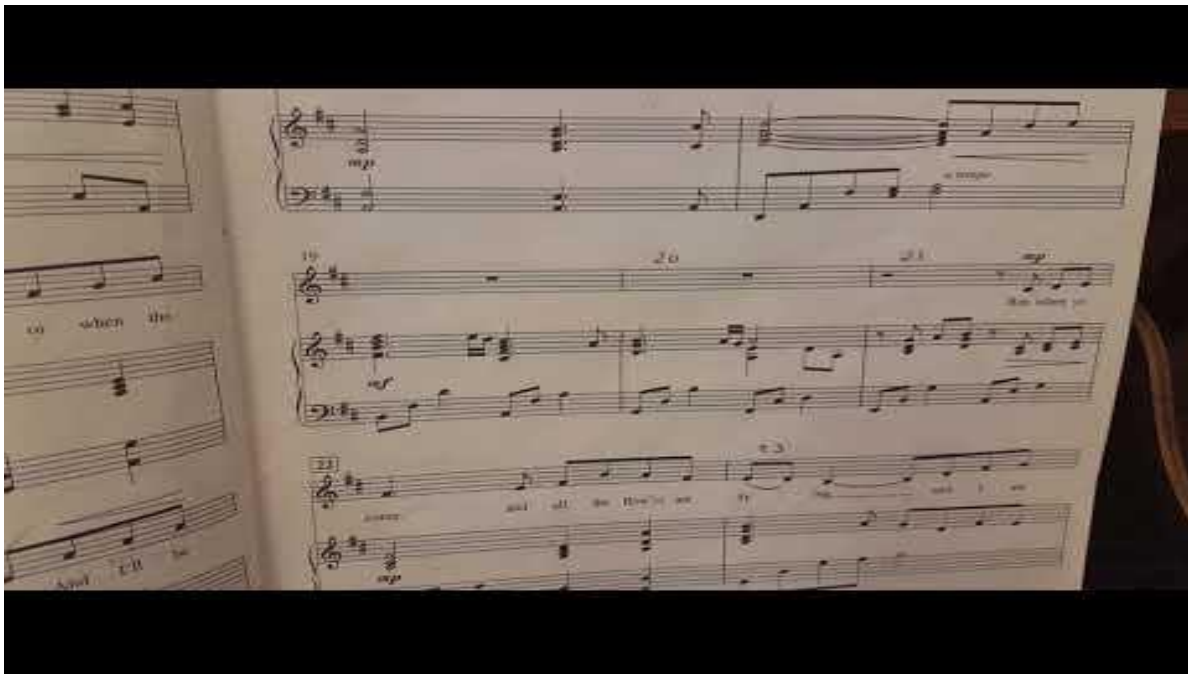
But when ye come, and all the flowers are dying,  
If I am dead, as dead I well may be,  
You'll come and find the place where I am lying,  
And kneel and say an Ave there for me.

And I shall hear, though soft you tread above  
me,  
And all my grave will warmer, sweeter be,  
For you will bend and tell me that you love me,  
And I shall sleep in peace until you come to me!

# Danny Boy: Julie Knowles arrangement



# Danny Boy: Piano only





# Danny Boy: Karaoke track in LOWER key

in sunshine or in shadow.  
Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy  
I love you so.

But when ye come,



# Follow- Up Activity:

Now that you have practiced good technique with these songs, try branching out! Pick a song that you would like to be able to perform, and use the same method to not only sing the song but perform it with good tone and breath support.

Once you have it down, perform it for your family!