

**Where Do We Begin? Developing Choral Artistry in the Elementary Choir**  
**Angee & Rick McKee, Clinicians**  
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## At A Time Like This

Traditional, arr. by A. McKee

The musical score is written on two staves in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with the tempo marking 'Happily' and contains the first two phrases of the song. The lyrics are 'At a time like this, at a time like this, at a'. Above the notes are chord symbols: G above the first measure, and (Clap) above the second and third measures. The second staff begins with a fermata over the first measure, which contains the lyrics 'time like this, Oh! I'. Above this measure is a chord symbol 'C'. The second staff continues with the lyrics 'need to watch the con-duc - tor!' and has a chord symbol 'D7' above the first measure of this line. There are 'x' marks above the notes for 'at a time like this' and 'con-duc - tor!' indicating claps.

This is a great warm up not only for pitch accuracy and vowels, but also for learning to watch the conductor for cues, cut offs, entrances, and dynamics. This activity provides opportunities for students to experience conducting and watching other conductors. The fermata will be the focus of the conducting experience for students. First, holding the C and cutting off the group with an appropriate gesture (ie., "Wax On" or "Wax Off") . Then bringing the choir back in on the next phrase after whatever time the student conductor wants to allow on the rest.

This is also a cumulative song. Each time your repeat, add a new sound and movement. Repeat all movements twice, except for the final phrase of the song when you'll perform each movement only once. (ex: clap, stamp, wacka, nanu, gobble, boom!)

1. Clap, clap (speaking voice)
2. Stamp, stamp (speaking voice)
3. Wacka-wacka (middle voice)
4. Nanu-nanu (ala Mork/high voice)
5. Gobble-gobble (turkey voice)
6. Boom, boom (loud voice)

I use this form of the song for long rehearsals when choristers need a short break from intense rehearsal periods.

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## Resource Books for Children's Choir Conductors

*Circle of Sound*, Doreen Rao, Boosey & Hawkes

*Creating Artistry Through Choral Excellence*, Henry Leck, Hal Leonard

*Educating Young Singers: A Choral Resource for Teachers/Conductors*, Mary Goetze, Angela Broeker, & Ruth Boshkoff, GIA

*Lifeline for Children's Choral Directors*, Jean Ashworth Bartle, Warner/Chappell

*How to Lead Children's Choirs*, Madeline Bridges, Lifeway

*Shared Harmony: Canons and Ostinato Songs for Beginning Part Singing*, Shirley W. McRae, Memphis Musicraft

*Sound Advice: Becoming A Better Children's Choir Conductor*, Jean Ashworth Bartle, Oxford University Press

*Teaching the Elementary School Chorus*, Linda Swears, Pearson

*Sing Together Children*, Madeline Bridges, Choristers Guild

*We Will Sing! Choral Music Experience for Classroom Choirs*, Doreen Rao, Boosey & Hawkes



## Suggested Choral Repertoire for Elementary Chorus

Composition	Composer/Arranger
A Jubilant Song	Mary Lynn Lightfoot
A Spring Morning	Carey, arr.Rao
Al Shlosa D'Varim	Alan Naplan, 2-pt.
Bandicoot from <i>Menagerie of Songs</i>	Jennings
Bist Du Bei Mir	Bach, arr. Rao
Cameroon	arr. Scott
Clouds	Cynthia Gray
Come With Hearts and Voices	Bach, arr. Scott
Da Pacem Domine	Franck, arr.Goetze 3-pt.
Dance of the Willow	Victoria Ebel-Sabo
Dodi Li	arr. Doreen Rao
Fairest Lady	Nick Page
Farewell to Tarwathie	Shelly Cooper
Good Night	Dimitri Kabalevsky, arr.Rao
Haida	Chassidic Round, Gerber/Leck
Hand Me Down My Silver Trumpet	Spiritual, arr. Bartle
Hodie/Kyrie	Brian Busch
How Beautiful Are The Feet of Them from <i>Messiah</i>	Handel, arr. Rao
I Will Bring You Brooches	Ruth Boshkoff
Jubilate Deo	Praetorius, arr. Rao
Kookaburra	traditional, arr. Keylock & Friedersdorf
Little Birch Tree	Russian Folk, arr. By Goetze
Manx Lullaby	arr. Lori-Anne Dolloff
Marienwürchen	Brahms, arr. Goetze
New Year Carol, A	Britten
O Music	Lowell Mason, arr. Rao
Old John Muddelcombe	W.H. Parry
Oliver Cromwell	W.H. Parry
Pie Jesu	Tom Shelton & Marybeth Yoder-White
Pie Jesu from <i>Requiem</i>	Faure, arr. Rao
Risseldy Rosseldy	Traditional, arr. Jay Broeker
Sally Gardens, The	Irish Tune, arr. Britten
She's Like the Swallow	arr. Lori-Anne Dolloff
Simple Gifts	arr. Aaron Copland
Simply Gregorian	arr. Donald Moore
Sing a Song of Nonsense	B. Dardess
Skylark and Nightingale	Audrey Snyder
Song That Nature Sings, The	Ruth Elaine Schram
Suo-Gan	Welsh Lullaby, arr. Rowley
This Little Light of Mine	arr. Berg
Tree Toad and Lone Dog, The	Jean Ashworth Bartle
Trolls	Clifford Crawley
When Sweet Winter Comes Again	Cynthia Gray
Yonder Come Day	Georgia Sea Island Song, arr. Tucker



**Some additional repertoire suggestions for introducing harmony to young singers.**

*Chatter with the Angels* – Collins (imitation & improvisation)

*Cameroon* – arr. Scott (imitation, short sections of harmony)

*Fairest Lady* – Nick Page (partner song)

*Freedom is Coming* – arr. Leck (3-pt./ melody with chordal harmony)

*Break Forth Into Singing* – Butler (melody/countermelody)

*Yonder Come Day* – Judith Cook Tucker arr. (ostinato, rhythmic & melodic)

*Al Shlosha* – Naplan (melody/countermelody)

*This Little Light of Mine* – K. Berg (brief homophonic harmony on the ending/stepwise movement)

*Velvet Shoes* – Randall Thompson (brief harmonic section)

*Ton Thé* – Arr. Brumfield (canon/countermelody)

*Ah, Poor Bird* – arr. Cooper (countermelody, canon)

*O Moon* – Andy Beck (2-pt. canon, descant/short section of homophony)