

CRWTYN (THE SONG OF THE COWBOY)



ABOUT THIS SONG

The title of this song (also known as 'Ton Ton Ton') literally means 'the song of the cowboy'. It is sung in Welsh. It's a typical nonsensical fantasy song, mentioning weird and very unlikely happenings such as a little hen in love with a calf! The chorus is easy and repetitive.

THEMES/SUBJECTS

Welsh folk / fantasy

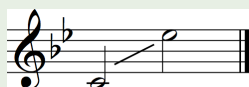
CURRICULUM KEY LINKS

Languages, Literacy & Communication, Expressive Arts

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Vocal range

A 10th



Vocal format

Verse and chorus

Musical elements

Texture/ Structure/Rhythmic patterns and Riffs

Musical characteristics

Two-part harmony chorus with a strophic structure and a rhythmic riff in the Introduction.

Warm-up Exercises

- Ensure there is plenty of space. Ask learners to imagine that they have a large pencil attached to their heads. Ask them to draw pictures and shapes of their choice on the ceiling.
- Learners should place both arms loosely by their sides and keep their knees slightly bent. After a count of four, they should lift up both arms gradually, straight out by their sides and breathe in. After holding this position for four beats, they should lower their arms slowly, hissing out the air without any force.
- Ask learners to think of a big or small sound and a body movement to go with it. Give opportunities for individuals to perform their sound and ask the rest of the group to imitate what they hear and see.
- Ask learners to clap/say the following characteristic rhythm that is heard in the chorus:

♩ = 100

Ton ton ton dy-ri ton ton ton dy-ri ton ton ton dy-ri ton ton ton.

Suggested key links with other Areas, cross-cutting themes &/or local, national and international contexts:

The piece covers a range of themes including friendship, world friends, being kind, conflicts, resolutions, unity.

- Compare it with other non-sensical folk songs both traditional and modern, both Welsh songs and songs from other countries e.g. Kate Rusby's Awkward Annie, Sosban Fach.
- What are the similarities?
- What are the differences?
- Can you write your own non-sensical lyrics? Attempt to compose a simple melody to accompany your lyrics.

GRADING: INTERMEDIATE

CRWTYN (THE SONG OF THE COWBOY)



Teaching and learning

- 1 Listen to the recording of the first verse and chorus a few times, and ask learners to identify and focus on the words 'Ton ton ton dyri ton ton ton' which is repeated 4 times in all with slight variations. Learners should be able to identify that the pitch of the third repetition is much higher than the first two.
- 2 Practise saying the words of the verses slowly. Remember that the verses can be performed alongside the recording with percussion instruments using the boxed pattern 'A' below and singers joining in the chorus if the words get too difficult.
- 3 Listen carefully and then perform the chorus by singing the words 'Ton ton ton dyri ton ton ton' (first note G). Then play the track with alto voice and perform that (first note D). These alto notes can also be played on any pitched instrument or the rhythm on non-pitched instruments too.
- 4 Divide the class into two - one half singing the chorus melody and the other singing the alto part. Practise without the accompaniment first.

- 5 Play a recording and ask learners to respond by clapping the following rhythm that is heard in the chorus:

♩ = 100

Ton ton ton dy-ri ton ton ton dy-ri ton ton ton dy-ri ton ton ton.

Or use the adjacent rhythm grid or boxes. Remember to count the empty boxes too.

PATTERN 'A'

Look at boxes 9–16 in each case. Notice the differences.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
x	x	x	xx	x	x	x	xx	x	x	x	xx	x	x	x	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
x	x	x	xx	x	x	x	xx	x	x	x	xx	x		x	

How to use the boxes

- i) Every box is a separate beat. Practise 4 beats or boxes at a time.
- ii) Clap ONCE if there is an X in the box.
- iii) Clap TWICE if there are two Xs in a box. This should result in clapping the rhythm 'ton ton ton dyri ton ton ton' etc that is heard in the chorus.
- iv) If there is no X in a box, you should count it in just the same, but NO clap - leave it blank (or say sh!). So PATTERN 'B' ALTO PART will be 'clap clap clap sh!'

Integral Skills

- Attempt to sing all the song in Welsh. (See the lyrics and interactive screen in the Welsh area of the CânSing website). Ensure that the words are performed with clear diction - strong consonants and focused vowels.
- There is also an alto part which is much simpler in rhythm. Practise this rhythm too. Watch out for the last bar which is slightly different.

GRADING: INTERMEDIATE

CRWTYN (THE SONG OF THE COWBOY)



PATTERN 'B': Alto part

Look at boxes 9–16 in each case. Notice the differences.

x ton	x ton	x ton	sh!
-------	-------	-------	-----

- Listen to the Introduction to each verse. There is a riff (or repetitive rhythmic pattern) made up of three instruments. Practise clapping these. Count with the boxes. Remember to count a 'sh' in the blank boxes. Repeat time and time again.
- Use your own percussion instruments to perform them. Look in the music score for the exact pitches of notes for pitched percussion. In the recording, it is repeated 4 times in all, with all the instruments ending in box 13 in the last repetition.

PATTERN 'C': Riff

Repeat 1–8 THREE times, then finish with 9–16 ONCE

3 times

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Harp	x			x		x	x	
Bass	x			x		x	x	x
Violin		x x		x		x	x	

Once

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Harp	x	x		x	x			
Bass	x			x	x			
Violin		x x		x	x			

Statements of what matters:

Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individual

Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination

- 1 Improve. Using the notes G, A, C, D and F, try and improvise new rhythms, keeping to a 4 time pattern. Give individuals an opportunity to perform to the rest of the class. Ask the others to appraise each other's composition.
- 2 The Welsh folk singer Sian James performed this song and it is on her CD 'Y Ferch o Bedlam' A male voice group, Meibion Llywarch, also performed this song on the CD 'Folk Songs of Wales: Male Voice Choirs'. Listen carefully to the two versions. What are the main differences between the two versions? You could think of headings such as male/female voices, solo/choir.
Sian James:
www.shazam.com/track/98271103/can-crwtyn-y-gwartheg
Cor Meibion/Male choir:
www.amazon.co.uk/Folk-Songs-Wales-Welsh-Choirs/dp/B00187PN70
- 3 Try and sing the songs with your own accompaniment. Chords are given on the songs sheets. Try and play the notes of the chords together, or separately if you're using a single note instrument.
- 4 Try and compose your own absurd fantasy songs. All children love a fantasy song, usually the weirder the better!

GRADING: INTERMEDIATE