

FORUM RESONANCES

JAZZ, IMPROVISATION, AND THE SCHULWERK:

Integrating Elements of Jazz & Pop Music into the Orff Schulwerk Curriculum

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Let's Jazz Dance

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Music

1. *Život je jen náhoda / Life Is Just A Coincidence (1932)* – music: Jaroslav Ježek, lyrics: Jan Werich, Jiří Voskovec
2. *Dry Bones (1928)* – music: originally spiritual song, our version is inspired by the version of The Delta Rhythm Boys (1950)
3. *Včelka Mája / Mája, The Little Bee (1985)* (song from a favourite children's TV series) – music: Karel Svoboda, lyrics: Zdeněk Rytíř, originally performed by Karel Gott, our version is inspired by the version of Vojtěch Dyk and the Nightwork (2008)

Život je jen náhoda / Life Is Just Coincidence (English lyrics by Hana Novotná)

Chorus part:

*Život je jen náhoda,
jednou jsi dole, jednou nahoře,
život plyne jak voda
a smrt je jako moře.*

*Our live is just coincidence,
once you are down, once you are up again,
life floats away like a river is free,
and the death seems to be like a sea.*

*Každý k moři dopluje,
někdo dříve a někdo později,
kdo v životě miluje,
ať neztrácí naději.*

*Everyone does reach the sea,
some earlier, some later, you can see,
who opens his heart, and gives to love a chance,
he never lose hope in advance.*

Warm-up

Movement has been inspired by the lyrics of the traditional tune song: **Wiggle Like a Worm**

Note: lyrics of the song could be also used as a rap underneath the chorus melody, featuring snapping in the last verse of the song.

Wiggle Like a Worm (traditional tune)

*Can you wiggle like a worm?
Can you squiggle? Can you squirm?
Can you flutter? Can you fly like a gentle
butterfly?
Can you crawl upon the ground
Like a beetle that is round?
Can you move (snap) with (snap) me (snap)?*

*Can you flip? Can you flop?
Can you give a little hop?
Can you slither like a snake?
Can you give a little shake?
Can you dance like bee
Who is buzzing round a tree?
Can you move (snap) with (snap) me (snap)?*

General Principles of Jazz Dance

Note: it is impossible to define Jazz Dance in his complexity and variability. It always depends on a music style (incl. body music as well), that influences the style of dance. Please, take these few points as a helping tool to initiate a jazz dance in your further teaching and learning.

- movement is essentially connected with music (dialog between music and the body)
- up-beat, syncopation, swing rhythm, rhythmic playfulness
- whole body is involved in the movement
- emphasis on the nature of the movement
- collapsed alignment, feeling the ground and natural gravity, bend knees
- isolations of different body parts in polyrhythm; polycentric approach
- improvisation
- jazz feeling, expressivity
- in professional sphere of the jazz dance: contrasts, expressiveness and contraction & release
- dialog

Personal note: Jazz music as well as jazz dance arised from of a dialog. Dialog between people and the god, people and their roots, people and the instruments, people themselves, dialog between musicians, dancers, music and the movement in general. Dialog plays an essential role in the jazz itself and it should play a dominant role in its teaching.

Resources:

GOODKIN, DOUG (2004). *Now's the Time: Teaching Jazz to All Ages*. Pentatonic Press.

KOVÁČIKOVÁ, Dagmar, KUBICOVÁ, Ivana (1980). *Aplikácia techniky džezového tanca vo výchove interpreta amatérskeho súboru. (Application of Jazz Dance Technique in the Education of Amateur Ensemble Performers)*. Osvetový ústav Bratislava.

ROSEVEAR, DANY. *Singing Games for Children* [online]. Can You Wiggle Like a Worm. Available at: <http://www.singinggamesforchildren.com/A%20Cluster%202.2%20Awaywego/16%20more%20action%20songs%20C.htm>