

Finlandia Theme



A Listening Lesson practicing FA

Suggested Grades: 3-5

Christa Schmidt

National Core Arts Standards

#1 – Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Objectives:

Practicing FA

Materials:

Recording: Finlandia Theme by Jean Sibelius

Sorting Cars: Finlandia Theme

Song: Son Macaron



CHRISTA SCHMIDT

I teach elementary general music in Dallas, Texas. My classroom is Kodaly and Orff inspired and based upon fast-paced, highly engaging, sequential learning. I taught English for one year in Malaysia on a Fulbright grant. I am privileged to make music with children every day!

Suggested Pre-teaching:

Before introducing the lesson from “*Finlandia*,” it is recommended students have familiarity with these concepts.

- Read fa on the staff.
- Reading and performing *do, re, mi, fa, so, and la*
- Familiarity with folk songs and other music containing the *mi-fa-so* and *so-fa-mi-re-do* motives.

Suggested Teaching Process:

I have found the best results teaching this lesson when I introduce smaller segments over several days.

Lesson 1: Son Macaron

- Teach the song and game to **Son Macaron**.

Directions:

- Formation: seated circle.
- The students hold their left hand on their left knee palm up
- They place their right-hand palm up on top of their neighbor’s hand.
- Next, the students pass the beat around the circle.
- Whoever is tapped on “out” is out.

Lesson 2: Solfege Practice

- Review **Son Macaron** playing the game.
- Sing through each song using solfege while pointing to a tone ladder.
- As a challenge, use short motives from the **Finlandia** theme as students sing the matching solfege.



Son Macaron

Son ma-ca-ron, Son fair-i-on. Fair-i-on,
Fair-i-on, le-a le-a tip, tip, tip, le-a le-a tap, tap, tap.
One tip, two tip, three - tip, out.

Lesson 3: Finlandia

- The teacher points to the tone ladder using *drmfsl* tone set.
- Refine the patterns to include phrases from **Finlandia**.
- Play the Finlandia theme for the students while pointing to the notes on the tone ladder.
- Encourage students to sing along in their heads.
- Play the theme again while pointing to the solfege written in stick notation.
- Students sing the first two phrases.
- Play memory: Students sing through the entire first two phrases on solfege. On each repetition, the teacher removes several notes.

Lesson 4: Sorting Cards: Finlandia Theme

- Review the theme of **Finlandia** singing from the tone ladder on solfege.
- Divide small groups.
- Give each group a set of sorting cards with phrases from **Finlandia** written in solfege.
- The students work together to put the phrases in the correct order.
- Once the cards are in the correct order, students sing the entire theme.

Lesson 5: Transferring to the Staff

- Review the theme of **Finlandia** singing from the tone ladder on solfege.
- Review the hand staff.
- Review the placement for fa on the staff:



- If mi is on a line, and so is on a line, fa is on the space in between.
- If mi is on a space, and so is on a space, fa is on the line in between.
- Identify the starting pitch or the placement of *do*.
- As a class, or individually, students fill in the notes for a single phrase Finlandia theme.
- Repeat if desired with additional phrases of the Finlandia theme.

Extension:

- Play the theme on barred instruments in the key of C.

Finlandia Theme

Jean Sibelius