



The aim of these activities is to:

- Sing with good tuning and tone
- Sing a range of songs with different textures and experience singing both melody and harmony
- Compose or arrange a short piece of music with different textures in it – these could be for voices or instruments or a combination.
- Develop your understanding and knowledge of a range of textures such as monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic and imitative (including round/canon) and recognise them in pieces of music.

Firstly, listen to the three pieces that introduce the textures: monophonic, polyphonic and homophonic.

- Polly-phonic
- Monophonic monks
- Team tough

These songs introduce the textures both in the lyrics but also in how the music is written.

- Monophonic has one melodic line and no harmony. It could be sung by one voice or lots of voices in unison
- Homophonic has one clear melody while everything else fills in the chords, harmony, rhythm
- Polyphonic has more than one melody happening at the same time

Your next task is to work your way through learning to sing songs with different textures. Musical texture is best experienced through singing and playing music. Here are some suggestions to sing:

List 1: songs in unison e.g. *Rise, Eye of the tiger*

List 2: songs that are in a round e.g. *Tue, tue, Rose, rose, Laudate Deum*

List 3: songs in parts e.g. *Ain't gonna let nobody, Lean on me, O haupt voll Blut und Wunden, Now is the month of Maying*

Now you've sung different types of songs think about the textures they each had. Take a listen to songs in the playlist and see if you can find examples of:

A song where:

- There is only one melody, nothing else
- A song that starts monophonic (one melody) but becomes polyphonic (several melodies)
- A song that is in parts but the parts are homophonic (in harmony, moving together)
- A song with only one melody but the melody is used in multiple voices creating a polyphonic texture
- A song that is polyphonic with multiple melodies
- A song with only one melody (unison)
- A song where parts imitate each other
- A song that has all three textures

sing up

Compose or arrange a short piece of music for two or three voices or instrument parts. Try and include an example that is monophonic, homophonic and polyphonic. Take inspiration from songs like *Mercy*, *Lean on me* and *Sing (Pentatonix)*. Some ideas to get you started:

- Take the chorus of a song you really like and learn to sing/ play it or write your own short melody (it needn't have words). This is an exercise so start with a small amount of musical material.
- Record your melody three times. This is your reference point.
- Next write a harmony that fits with your melody. Try and do this by ear. This should create a homophonic texture. Remember the melody is the most important so this should complement it. Record it or write it down in some way that you can sing/play from.
- Invent a new melody that fits with your first melody reference and record it in some way as above.
- Practise playing the melody, then the harmony and finally the new melody. Practise moving from one to another. Once you've rehearsed it play it live with your reference recording – record it if you can.

Lots of singers on Tik Tok are creating arrangements collaboratively. Pick a tune and sing it. Send it to a friend and ask them to add a harmony. Give it a go. Check out this version of *Viva la vida*:

<https://vm.tiktok.com/WxNhcl/>

Or download a trial version the Acapella App and create your own vocal arrangement video.

Example answers:

1. *Monophonic monks*
2. *Oh how lovely is the evening, Rose, rose*
3. *Lean on me, O haupt voll Blut und Wunden*
4. *Hotaru koi, Tue tue*
5. *Now is the month of Maying*
6. *Eye of the tiger, Rise*
7. *Polly-phonic, Laudate Deum, Now is the month of Maying*
8. *Throw, catch*