

Voices Together 2024 – teaching notes

Please do direct your pupils to Calderdale Music's YouTube channel for extra practise at home – there are videos of the songs with just lyrics on screen, talk throughs of the signs used, lyrics & signing together and also just the signing (for when you know all the words!)

Channel: https://youtube.com/@calderdalemusic?si=_uAREKLjP8lp-KTS

Voices Together '25 playlist: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjm3gCvadYwMAPNtFRXCzlr-BFB2KtoQi&si=wAhogPQWwekvXQEd>

***BSL:**

Videos with the BSL signs for these songs are available on our YouTube channel. Everybody should please attempt the signs – start by learning the chorus sections and follow along with Amy-Rose, who will guide you through them. It is recommended that the signs are learnt in conjunction with the song (which should also help you to learn it) rather than as an extra task after learning the song. Don't forget you can also slow the videos down on youtube, using the "settings" cog and "playback speed" option.

For BSL, it isn't necessary to "mirror" Amy-Rose, but rather to ideally use your dominant hand (Amy-Rose is right handed, therefore if you are too, then try to use the same hand as she does, if left handed then mirror her actions). If it is a challenge to learn *all* of the signs, aim to learn the biggest and most important words – We'd love to see everyone having a go at signing along to these songs please. And don't worry, we will be there on the day to guide you through it too!

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Roar

An empowering anthem about finding your voice and asserting your strength. Show confidence in your singing and stand with pride.

Whilst the song grows in excitement towards the chorus (“I got the eye of the tiger” section), just be wary of not forcing voices and ensure you are keeping a pleasant tone in this part too (there’s a danger it can get a bit “shouty” if we are not careful!). Similarly, into the “oh-oh-oh-oh” section – keep this light and bouncy.

At 2’45 the excitement builds further – start a bit quieter so we can build the sound and watch the pitch direction for the “ro-ar”s...the first 2 step downwards , then 2 step upwards and then the final long highest note before we go into the final chorus.

This will be our opening song so we need plenty of energy and confidence as we share the uplifting message of this motivational song.

Somewhere Only We Know

We have taken inspiration from the original version by the band Keane from 2004. However, this song has since been covered many times, leading to further success, most notably Lily Allen’s version, which was also used in a John Lewis Christmas advert.

A melancholic song of nostalgia and memories; looking back at simpler times and remembering a familiar, magical place. The beautiful melodic lines need good breath control – try to only breathe where there are commas on the lyric sheets and taking really good, full breaths in preparation for each line will help.

Take care with the first verse and chorus where there is only a simple accompaniment – listen carefully to it to keep in time and don’t be tempted to rush. Watch out for the lyric changes from being “tired” and being “old” – the signs should help so keep watching too!

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Lean on Me

A classic hit of friendship and support by Bill Withers from 1972. This is an upbeat version of this song- keep the energy and smiles going!

We begin with some gentle “oohs” altogether and then our youth presenters will be leading on this song – so whilst they’re singing verses 1 & 2, we will still be adding the signing, so please do learn this too. We all join in with **all** the choruses.

The bridge sections (“you just call on me brother”) should be sung with extra volume and “oomph”!

The final section of “call me’s”, the additional parts/responses heard on the track will be for the youth presenters to add.

Wonder

As with previous years, the Voices Together finale will be this fabulous song by Emilie Sande. Get yourselves up and moving to this lively song, beginning with finger clicking in the intro.

Watch out for the change from “I” in the first verse and chorus which then changes to “we” for the rest of the song. Aim for a strong start to the “whoa” in the chorus which then floats down and take an especially good breath at the start of the “oh” as this should then take you through the rest of the line too.

The “light is contagious” section repeats 4 times – we will start this quietly and build with each repeat, aiming for that change to the powerful high note at the end of the 4th time. Try to really get your mouths working in this section so those words are punchy!

At the end of the song there is some additional music –start by returning to the finger click pattern of the opening. We then add a pattern of “stamp, stamp, stamp, CLAP” to it, starting with group 2 (on the stage), then group 1 followed by families in the circle and balcony. We will guide you on the day in rehearsal as to when to begin – keep watching the leader for your cue to start.