

Scots Sang an Leid wi Amy Lord

Introduction

This book is a teacher's/parents aide for teaching Scots song and language and to help develop knowledge of cultural heritage in primary school aged children during the 2020 Covid-19 Lockdown.

It has been designed so that teachers and parents of levels of musical ability can use it, and also taught in the style that Scots songs have been taught and passed on for hundreds of years.

Background

For a long time, and especially in the Scottish traveller tradition, Scots songs, stories and tunes have been passed on through the oral tradition, where they are learned purely through hearing them, often from mother to daughter, father to son. This is still recognised by many academics as one of the most authentic and successful ways of teaching Scots Song.

Oral tradition and oral lore is cultural material and traditions transmitted orally from one generation to another.

- Jan Vansina

One of the issues that has occurred (and been welcomed) using this method is that many different versions of songs have appeared in our society and culture, with little way of knowing which one is the original. This has not been seen as a drawback however, and whilst there are types/genres of songs which are seen to be regional, in many cases, there are regional versions of certain songs. The differences can be in the language used, melodic differences and in some cases, the stories and outcomes of the plot in each song can be different.

Many songs are a cultural record and history of life in Scotland, whether they be about working life and conditions (both ballads and industry songs), battles and conflicts (ballads and lyrical songs), political unrest or even simple love songs can give an insight into what life was like in Scotland in the past. This makes Scots songs a fantastic source of information and activity for many class topics and projects.

What's included

Each song in this booklet has a worksheet, teachers and parents information/answer page, accompanying tracks and suggested further activities and reading/listening. Within it, I have also tried to include a wide selection of different types and genres of Scots song, which are suitable for as many different age groups as possible.

The songs have been presented as a worksheet with comprehensive questions to be answered. The questions directly relate to the song, it's history or author/composer and are intended to help the children understand the meaning of the song as well as broaden their knowledge of Scots language, history and culture. There is a subject and age reference suggestion at the top of each page to help quickly and easily identify which songs would be most useful and relevant for your children

There is an accompanying information page to each worksheet, with facts about the songs and a little background information. I have also included suggestions for further reading and listening, though these are selected and not exhaustive.

How to Use – The Song Sheets

There are two ways to approach teaching the songs in this booklet. Before learning each song, you could start by reading out and discussing the info given for the song on the answer/info page, so as to give a little background knowledge prior to hearing the song. This will help prepare your child for answering some of the questions as not all of them are based on lyrics or information given within the song. Also means they have to retain the information longer and remembering it to transcribe will ensure further retention. The other alternative is to encourage your children to research the answers themselves on the internet.

All of the songs have a further task or suggested activity for your child to do on the answer page, as well as additional extra worksheets relevant to some songs.

How to Use – Learning the Song

On the accompanying tracks, the song has been sung through in its entirety and then on the following track has been broken down into segments which are repeated (track numbers can be found on song answer pages).

The songs have been broken down so that those who are not comfortable with singing can play the recording and the children can listen and learn from it. On the parts tracks, the songs are sung in a call and response format, with each line repeated twice so that children can listen to it and then repeat it back, along with Amy singing it. Once this has been done, singing along with the full track is encouraged.

It is not necessary for you to use the tracks when teaching the songs, you're very welcome to learn the songs first yourselves and teach them but I would still thoroughly advise teaching the songs in the call and response method which has been indicated above.

Thanks

Youth Music Initiative, Creative Scotland
Clare Hoare, Cultural Coordinator, Education, Stirling Council
Kenny Bates, Music Development Officer, Stirling Council
The Tolbooth, Stirling Council
Stirling Council
Carolyn Paterson
Isla Lord