



Interactive Online Choral Lessons

Here is the link to the set of lessons on Google Slides:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11OPzVGjgEeOaoah38IHakwIworXaXEggPjoibWpX6Xg/edit?usp=sharingcru>

Here is the link to the student answer sheet (please copy it as soon as you open it):

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LC-ijiz1W9VY9zh3hXR3xniIbdJrVAQuBn4OunIbbJQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Here is the link to the interactive Noteflight score:

<https://www.noteflight.com/scores/view/e6488f636e2a57320b48f9e637274d7dda048f49>

Thank you for downloading my set of lessons! The license that comes with the set of lessons includes use by you and any other teachers or students at your school. Please do not share this with others beyond your school.

Suggestions for Successful Implementation

- Use whatever version (Powerpoint, PDF, or Google) will work best with your computer and streaming service. The most seamless experience is going to be the google slides version.
- If you want, students can also view the PPT, PDF, or google slide on their device, too.
- I've designed the lessons to be as turnkey as possible, but they aren't meant to just be given to students without a teacher leading them through. Ideally, some teacher lecture and discussion will get the best results.
- I've also designed the lessons to work either as completely virtual, hybrid, or in-person.
- **BE SURE TO MAKE A COPY OF THE GOOGLE ANSWER SHEET.** Do not send the original to your students, or you will be sharing data and answers with every other teacher using this. Details for how to do that are on the actual student answer sheet itself.

If you have questions, please e-mail admin@jdfrezzell.com

cruelly, love

Music by J.D. Frizzell
Poetry by E.E. Cummings

Composer Background



The composer of this piece is Dr. J.D. Frizzell. He is currently the Director of Fine Arts at Briarcrest Christian School outside of Memphis, Tennessee.

One interesting fact about Dr. Frizzell is that he didn't start studying music at all until the age of 15 when he joined choir during his sophomore year of high school.

In addition to teaching and composing, Dr. Frizzell is a leader in the contemporary a cappella field. He is co-author of two books, serves as President of the A Cappella Education Association, and directs SONY recording artists Briarcrest OneVoice.

Composer Style

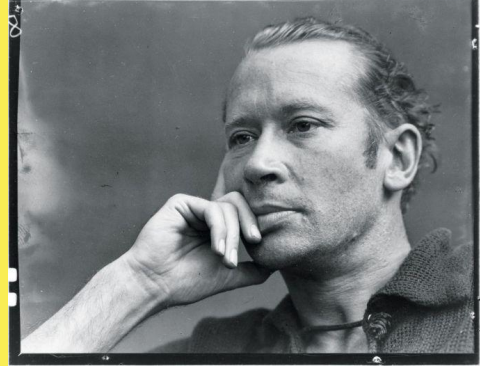


Dr. Frizzell's compositional style combines influences from well-known 20th and 21st century composers, including Morten Lauridsen, Gerald Finzi, Eric Whitacre, and Frank Martin.

Notable stylistic elements include:

- A fluid tonal center
- Common tone modulations
- Intricate piano parts
- Use of aleatoric sections
- Speech-like rhythms
- Free use of dissonance

Poet Background



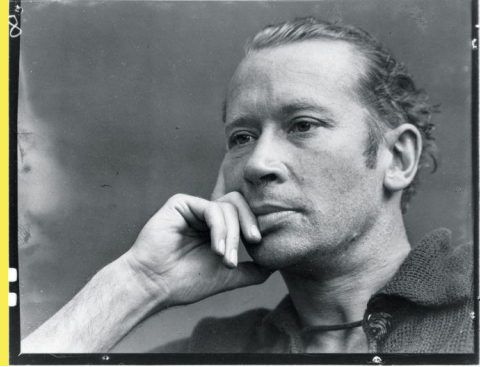
Edward Estlin Cummings was an American poet (1894-1962).

One of the most influential poets of the 20th century, Cummings wrote over 2,900 poems.

His predominant style is modernist free-form poetry.

His poetry is known for idiosyncratic syntax, lower case usage, and compound words.

Examples of Stylistic Elements of E.E. Cummings



idiosyncratic syntax

and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

– “[i carry your heart with me(i carry it in)]”

lower case usage

i carry your heart with me(i carry it in
my heart)i am never without it(anywhere

– “[i carry your heart with me(i carry it in)]”

Examples of Stylistic Elements of E.E. Cummings



Compound words

I occasionally feel vague how
vague i don't know tenuous Now-
spears and The Then-arrows making do
our mouths something red,something tall

- "let's live suddenly without thinking"

cruelly, love

cruelly,love

walk the autumn long;

the last flower in whose hair,

they lips are cold with songs

for which is

first to wither,to pass?

shallowness of sunlight

falls,and cruelly,

across the grass

Comes the

moon

love,walk the

autumn

love,for the last

flower in the hair withers;

thy hair is acold with

dreams,

love thou art frail

—walk the longness of autumn

smile dustily to the people,

for winter

who crookedly care.

Discussion Prompt

Analyze the poem “cruelly, love”.

What aspects of E.E. Cummings’ style do you see reflected in this poem? Where and how? Cite specific examples.

Critical Listening

Listen to the piece in its entirety performed by a young high school choir.




What are some aspects of the performance the choir did well?

What are some aspects of the performance in which the choir could improve?

A **Key Signature** defines the tonal center of a piece of music.

Key signatures: major and relative minor



A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains eight measures, each representing a different key signature. The notes in each measure are: 1. C major (C4, E4, G4), 2. G major (G4, B4, D5), 3. D major (D4, F#4, A4), 4. A major (A3, C#4, E4), 5. E major (E3, G#3, B3), 6. B major (B2, D#3, F#3), 7. F# major (F#2, A#2, C#3), 8. C# major (C#2, E#2, G#2).

C major	G major	D major	A major	E major	B major	F# major	C# major
A minor	E minor	B minor	F# minor	C# minor	G# minor	D# minor	A# minor



A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The staff contains eight measures, each representing a different key signature. The notes in each measure are: 1. C major (C4, E4, G4), 2. F major (F4, A4, C5), 3. Bb major (Bb3, D4, F4), 4. Eb major (Eb3, G3, Bb3), 5. Ab major (Ab2, C3, Eb3), 6. Db major (Db2, F2, Ab2), 7. Gb major (Gb2, Bb2, Db2), 8. Cb major (Cb2, Eb2, Gb2).

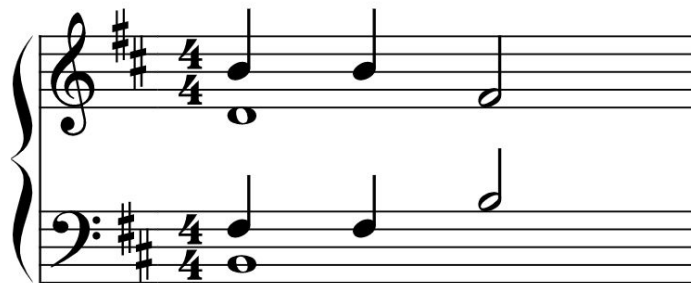
C major	F major	Bb major	Eb major	Ab major	Db major	Gb major	Cb major
A minor	D minor	G minor	C minor	F minor	Bb minor	Eb minor	Ab minor

We can usually tell if a section of music is in major or minor based on the first and/or last chords of that section. If it centers around the tonic (scale degree 1) it is usually major. If it centers around the submediant (scale degree 6), it is usually minor. Listen to these examples.



Musical notation for D Major in 4/4 time. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes D4, E4, and F#4. The bass line in the bass clef consists of quarter notes D3, E3, and F#3.

D Major



Musical notation for B Minor in 4/4 time. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes B3, C#4, and D4. The bass line in the bass clef consists of quarter notes B2, C#3, and D3.

B Minor



Cruelly, Love

Poetry by
E.E. Cummings

Music by
J.D. Frizzell

Music Theory

What is the
key signature
of this piece?
Is it major or
minor? Why?

sweetly, with great sorrow $\text{♩} = 70$

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Piano

mf *p*

pedal



In music, **texture** is the way harmonies, melodies, rhythms, and timbres (like different instruments) relate to the overall effect of a piece of music.

Monophony

A single melodic line

Homophony

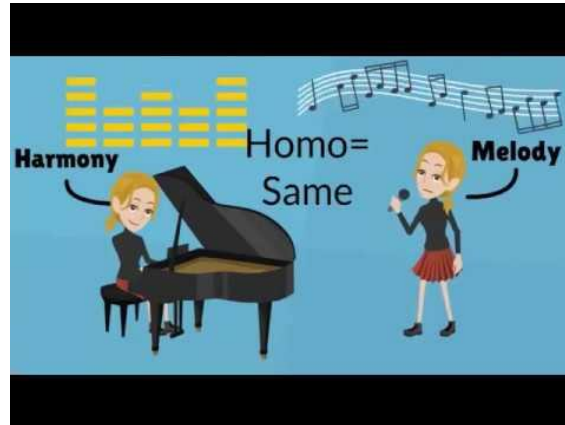
Primary melody line with harmonies on the same rhythm

Polyphony

Two or more independent melodic lines

Heterophony

Multiple voices or instruments performing a single melody with slight variation



What is the texture
at measure 3?

What does
“tutti” mean?

The image shows a musical score for three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor/Bass) and Piano. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: "tutti cruel - ly love walk the".

The Soprano part (S) begins in measure 3 with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note (C5) and a half note (D5). The Alto part (A) has a whole rest in measure 3. The Tenor/Bass part (T/B) has a whole rest in measure 3. The Piano part (Pno.) begins in measure 3 with a triplet of eighth notes (G3, A3, B3) followed by a quarter note (C4) and a half note (D4). The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and a harmonic pedal point in the left hand.

Measure 3 is marked with a "3" above the first note of the Soprano part, indicating a triplet. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed above the first note of the Soprano part and below the first note of the Piano part. The instruction "pedal harmonically" is written below the Piano part, with a bracket indicating the duration of the pedal point.



What does the dynamic at measure 11 mean?

How does the texture change at measure 11?

What is the curved line in the alto part in measure 11?

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system covers measures 11 and 12. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are written in a four-part setting. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is in the right hand, with the left hand providing harmonic support. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present at the beginning of measure 11. A curved line (fermata) is placed over the alto part in measure 11. The lyrics for the first system are: "cruel - ly love walk the". The second system covers measures 13 and 14. The lyrics for the second system are: "au - tumn long; the last flow - er in whose". The piano accompaniment continues with a rhythmic pattern in the right hand and chords in the left hand.



Modulation is the change from one tonality or tonal center to another.

Music Theory

The key change from measure 18 to 19 uses what is called a common tone modulation.

A common tone modulation typically uses one sustained or repeated note to connect two very distant keys.

4 Cruelly, Love

The image displays a musical score for the piece "Cruelly, Love". It is divided into two systems, each containing vocal parts (Soprano and Alto, Tenor and Bass) and a piano accompaniment (Pno.).

System 1 (Measures 17-19):

- Measures 17-18:** The vocal parts sing "with songs ____". The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and a sustained bass line in the left hand.
- Measure 18:** The key signature changes from three flats (B-flat major) to two flats (B-flat major), which is a common tone modulation as the note B-flat remains the same.
- Measure 19:** The key signature changes to two sharps (D major), with the common tone B-flat now functioning as the second flat (B-flat) in the new key.

System 2 (Measures 19-20):

- Measures 19-20:** The vocal parts sing "for which is first to with - er,". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern, now in the key of D major.



Music Theory

What key does this section start in? What key does it end up in?

What common tones are used to connect these keys? **hint- they are spelled enharmonically**

enharmonically-relating to notes that are the same in pitch (in modern tuning) though bearing different names (e.g., F sharp and G flat or B and C flat).

4 Cruelly, Love

17

S
A

with songs _____

T
B

with songs _____

Pno.

17

S
A

T
B

mp

for which is first to with - er,

Pno.

Music Theory

Another key change happens from measure 21 to 22. This time, it is a common chord modulation. A common chord modulation uses an entire chord that exists in both the old key and the new one.

The musical score consists of three staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Tenor/Bass (T/B), and a Piano (Pno.) accompaniment. The key signature is E minor (three sharps: F#, C#, G#). Measure 21 shows the vocal lines with lyrics "shall - ow-ness of sun - light" and "to pass? —". The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measure 22 shows a modulation to D minor (two sharps: F#, C#). The piano accompaniment in measure 22 is labeled "F# minor⁷".

E: ii⁷/
D: iii⁷



Vocal Technique

Practice singing the opening phrase of “cruelly, love”.



Record yourself singing this opening phrase. If the range is uncomfortable, sing your voice part’s line in the repeated phrase.

Keys for success:

- A strong initial breath and onset with a “c” consonant on “cruelly”
- Immediate movement from “c” to an “oo” vowel with only a short flipped “r” between
- Utilizing tall, open vowels throughout the phrase

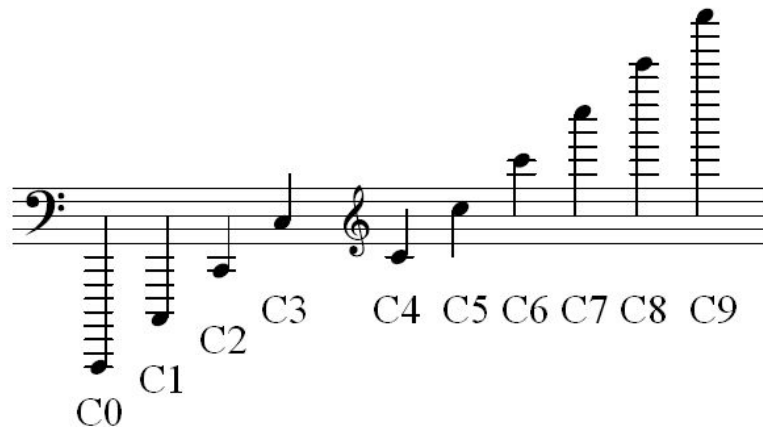
Vocal Technique

Range consists of the lowest to the highest note that your voice can phonate, or sing.

Useable range typically does not include notes on the low end that you cannot produce reliably. Useable range also does not include notes on the high end that require considerable strain or tension.

Look through the entire piece.
What is the range of your voice part
for “cruelly, love?”

Example: D3 to E flat 4



Discussion Prompt

“Music matters because people matter”

- Dr. J.D. Frizzell

What does this quote mean to you?

How has your attitude towards singing and making music changed during the past year?

How has the relative isolation of 2020 impacted your perception of the importance of your friends and family?