

# 1 Two Welcome Songs

RESOURCES ▶ CD1 track 1 (Abeeyo) ▶ Warm ups: Nos. 1–4

## 1 a) Abeeyo

### Information

This is a simple song of welcome sung by Australian Aborigines. It is made up of two phrases; the first—a long held note—resembles a loud shout or call as if hailing someone from a distance. It belongs to the tradition known as ‘call and response’, where the material is shared between people and groups.

### Starting

- Stand in a circle—this emphasizes sharing and equality.
- Practise deep, slow breathing in and hissing out, with some pressure behind the air to develop long notes.
- Say or call ‘hello’, ‘hi’, ‘welcome’, ‘howdie’, etc. across the group to someone to warm up the voice and begin the process of communication.
- The song itself acts as a warm up, so get going as soon as possible!

### Teaching and rehearsing

- Teach this song by rote—a phrase at a time.
- Start at any pitch that’s comfortable, and go higher by a semitone each time.
- The exact note lengths and rhythm are not important; what matters is that the group works together and moves at the same time.
- The sound should be full, warm, and welcoming—the secret here is a big breath followed by long notes that are pushed out across the circle.

### Ideas

- Divide into two groups, well separated across the room (A and B). Sing it as an echo. Really project the sound to communicate with people at a distance.
- Repeat, but with each group holding on the last note of each phrase during the echo.
- This is a great piece to ‘feel’ as you sing, so try some movement—walking on the spot with upper-body movement helps give it a strong pulse.

### Listen out

- Good clear upbeats are needed—breathe in good time and aim for a strong first syllable.
- The long notes may sag and lose energy. Bring this to the singers’ attention if it happens, and suggest they crescendo slightly during long notes.

### Performing

- This is a warm-up and rehearsal piece for the singers and not really for an audience, although you could start a performance by welcoming everyone!
- Start in unison, then divide.
- Individual singers could take it in turns to lead a line.
- The group could begin the piece ‘off stage’ at a performance, and enter singing.

Trad. Aboriginal

$\text{♩} = 72$

Leader Group Leader Group

A - bee - yo, A - bee - yo, A - be - yo, A -

Leader Group

- be - yo, A - bee-yo bee-yo bee - yem ma - ma, A -

Leader

1 2

- bee - yo bee - yo bee - yem ma - ma. A - ma - ma.