

Musical Inclusion & Diversity through Choral & Piano Arrangements

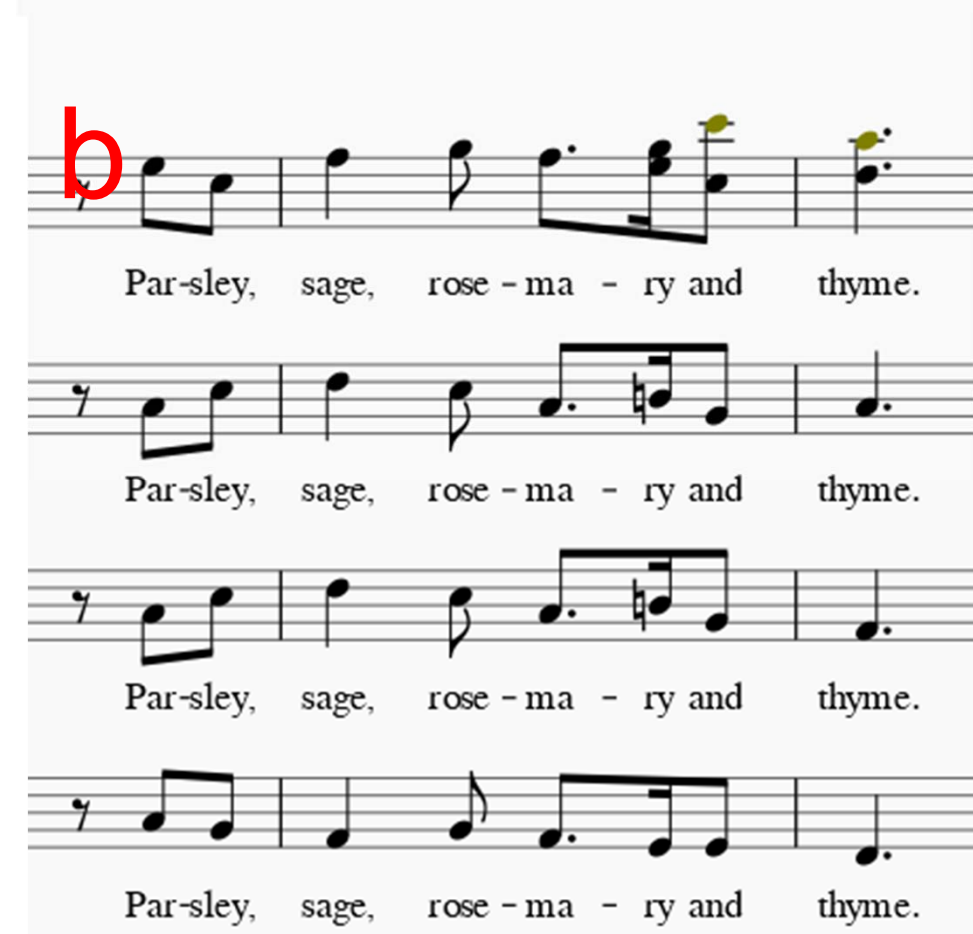
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Overview Classical repertoire has been the main focus of musical training in the United States. There is a large gap in this repertoire due to the absence of non-western or culturally diverse pieces. Many students never experience the benefits of learning multicultural musical traditions due to this absence. This research project fills that gap with ten arrangements of music from diverse cultures and countries in a wide array of settings for beginning to intermediate choirs and pianists.

Materials and Methods To begin, a diverse musical piece was researched and information about the composer, date of publication, and history was obtained. The pieces were then examined to determine if they were copyrighted or in the public domain. Next, it was decided how each piece would best be presented. Finally, the original folk melody or tune was taken and reworked using MuseScore to create a completely new arrangement.

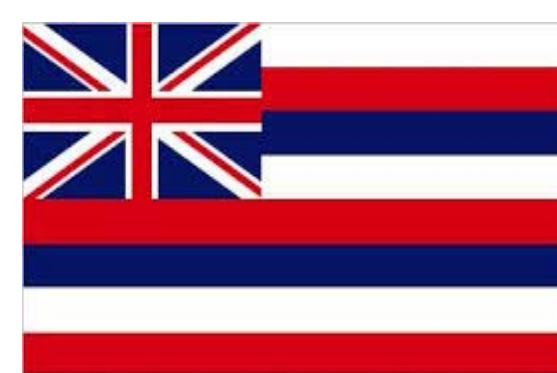
Scarborough Fair traditional Irish ballad by unknown



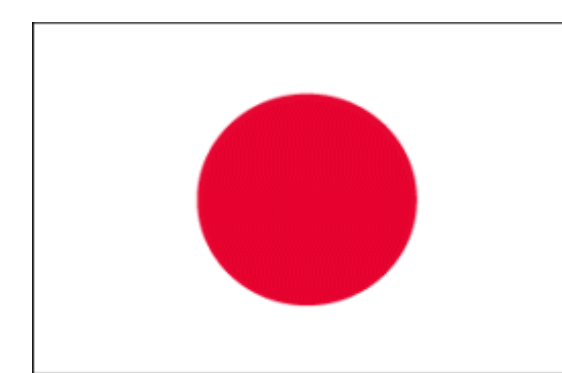
- The original melody is incorporated throughout, but is also embellished to add pedagogical functionality.
- By repeating this phrase with varying harmonies, a familiar motif is established without losing musical interest.

Implications Expanding the scope of classical repertoire is an incredibly important initiative; the study of multicultural music encourages communication between musical scholars, promotes the understanding of values and traditions from non-western countries, and improves students' cognitive capabilities. Furthermore, music is indicative of the quality of international relationships. The ten arrangements produced by this project fill the existing gap in musical literature by representing many diverse cultures, difficulty levels, genres, and choirs. These pieces can now be used to educate choral and piano students on musical traditions from across the world.

Represented Cultures



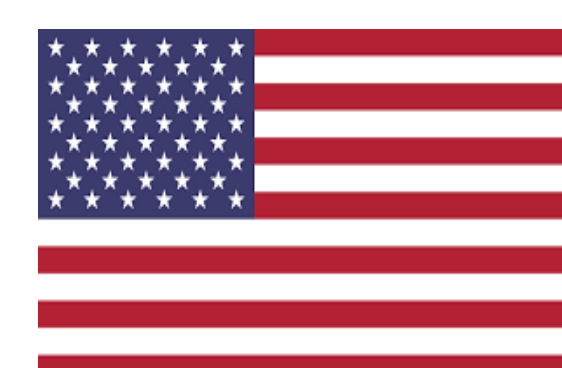
Hawaii



Japan



Ireland



USA

musescore

All arranging of the pieces in this research project was performed with MuseScore, a free and open-source music creation software.

Aloha 'Oe farewell song by Queen Lili'uokalani



- It is vital to preserve the original language of a musical work when trying to encourage musical diversity. This prevents the erasure of the piece's history and cultural importance. Queen Lili'uokalani originally wrote this piece in Hawaiian.

References

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