



## SONG OF THE MONTH

### Song of the Month "Coming Home"

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 2, 7, and 9

#### OBJECTIVES

- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work (Cr2)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (Re7)
- Apply artistic criteria to evaluate work (Re9)

#### MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (February 2017)
- *Music Alive!* Classroom Worksheet #12: Staff Paper (download at [musicalive.com](http://musicalive.com))
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

#### START

1. Ask a student to read the text on page 16.
2. Play "Coming Home" by Leon Bridges (Hear the Music track 1 on [musicalive.com](http://musicalive.com)), while the students follow along with the notation on pages 16-17.

#### DEVELOP

1. Ask the following questions:
  - What's the time signature? (12/8.)
  - How many eighth notes are there in a measure of 12/8? (12.)
  - How many dotted quarter notes are there in a measure of 12/8? (Four.)
  - The key signature has six flats. What is the key? (G $\flat$  major.)
  - Structurally speaking, does the piece seem simple or complex? (Simple.)
  - Why is that? (There are just two main sections, the verse and the chorus, and both are eight bars long.)
  - How many chords do you see in the piece? (Five: G $\flat$ , A $\flat$ m, D $\flat$ , C $\flat$ , and E $\flat$ m.)
  - How often do the chords change? (Every other beat—twice per measure.)
  - Which sections share the same chord progression? (The intro, chorus and outro: G $\flat$ —D $\flat$ —C $\flat$ —E $\flat$ m.)
  - What's the lowest note in the song? (The D just below the staff.)
  - What's the highest note in the song? (The G just above the staff.)
  - What's the complete range? (An octave plus a perfect fourth.)
  - Which technique is used in the outro, where many notes are sung on a single syllable? (These are examples of *melisma*, an essential vocal technique in gospel, R&B, and more.)

2. Help the class sing the song together. Work on it one section at a time. Isolate and correct any problem areas before moving on to the next section.

#### CLOSE

**Hand out copies of the staff paper worksheet.** (Forgo notation software, as transposition features would make this exercise pointless.) Have students write out the first four bars of "Coming Home"'s verse—or any other excerpt—in the sharp key of their choice. Make sure that they include the chord symbols. Collect the worksheets and check them for accuracy.

#### ASSESS

- Did the students answer the questions about the song?
- Did they work on singing it?
- Did they complete their transposition exercises?

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

W	A	R	E	H	O	U	S	E		J	A	M	E	S
O				P		G		U						I
M	I	C	K		E		N	O	T	A	T	I	O	N
E		A		I	N	G				N				G
N		G			R		S				M			L
	B	E	A	T	A		C		C	O	O	K	E	
	O			H	I	P	H	O	P					T
A	D	E	L	E		H		R			S	O	U	L
	Y			L	I		E	D	M		R			E
C				D	I	S	C	O		A		P		M
O				F					T	H	R	E	E	O
M	E	M	B	E	R	S				L		R		N
I		A				O		O		L	U	C	I	A
N					A	L	B	U	M					D
G	E	N	R	E		O		T			W	H	I	T
														E

Crossword Puzzle can be found on page 7