



“ARTISTIC EXPRESSION IN THE CHORAL CLASSROOM USING DALCROZE EURHYTHMICS”

Dr. Marla Butke, Otterbein University, President of AES

mbutke@otterbein.edu

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"The aim of eurhythmics is to enable pupils to say, "I have experienced," and so to create in them the desire to express themselves." Jaques-Dalcroze

"Rhythm is the basis of all artistic phenomena." Jaques-Dalcroze

Emile Jaques-Dalcroze and his approach

- born in 1865 to Swiss parents (died 1950)
- was appointed Professor of harmony, solfège, and composition at the Geneva Conservatory, careful observation of his students showed him that while the students could be good musical technicians, they often did not hear or feel the nuances of the music
- the approach involves the whole body, mind, and emotions by representing an integrated physical, intellectual, and emotional experience
- three components of this approach are eurhythmics, solfège, and improvisation
- special emphasis on child-centered learning
- the body is the first instrument of expression

Objectives of the Approach

- Focus/Concentration
- Teaching of the music elements through movement, rhythm being the most important
- Solfège
- Expression

Plastique animée - "An artistic and creative embodiment of music through individual or group movement." (Butke/Frego). It is a combination of improvisation and choreography, a physicalization of the music, and an expressive visualization of the music in an artistic and meaningful way.

Activities

- Alphabet/Number - A-1, B-2, etc. Variation - Sing a 5 note minor tetrachord (*re* to *la*), divide into two groups – one group beginning on *re* and one on *la*
- Canon – “Frere Jacques” – students circle clap melodic rhythm, then clap 8 beats behind, walk melodic rhythm, then walk 8 beats behind, triple canon – voice 1 sings, voice 2 sings/voice 1 walks, voice 2 walks; form a group of 4 and stand in a circle, each part tapping the melodic rhythm while singing in a 4-part canon.
- Harmonic Dictation — teacher plays simple chord progression on piano, have students walk forward when they hear the tonic chord, walk sideways when they hear the subdominant chord,

walk backwards when they hear the dominant chord, and walk in an individual circle when they hear the submediant chord.

- **Scale Work**
 - Students sing scale and walk the beat (forward for ascending and backward for descending, show half steps with smaller footsteps).
 - Sing scales with solfege, numbers, and letters. Add the drum as a cue to change from one to another.
 - Additive scale - conduct in 4, sing scale adding one note at a time, and then subtracting one note at a time, sing in parts, add walking the beat.
- **Consonance/Dissonance Circle** - Using “Lux Aurumque” (Whitacre), students stand in a circle (mixed formation) and either touching shoulders or pressing hands increase pressure when there is tension in the music.
- **“Baba Yetu”** (Christopher Tin) - using the music, students walk beat and with elastics show whole notes, then get in small groups and show whole notes expressively, then get in large group at teacher’s cue.

What is the American Eurhythmics Society?

Founded by Dr. David Frego, Dr. Marla Butke, and Dr. Kathy Thomsen, the American Eurhythmics Society seeks to continue the work of Dalcroze by providing training opportunities in Eurhythmics for music educators who practice their craft in the classroom or in the private teaching studio. The AES serves those teachers looking for meaningful ways to include movement rooted in the philosophy of Dalcroze to meet national and state education standards, and to provide authentic assessment opportunities. The AES teaches personal musicianship along with pedagogy and applications of Eurhythmics. Check out the website at <http://www.americanEurhythmics.org/>. If you become a member you will have access to lesson plans, videos of lessons, piano improvisation ideas, and plastique animée examples with children and adults, a bibliography, blogs, and an extensive recording list with concepts to be taught. Upcoming events/workshops can be found on the site.

To purchase "Meaningful Movement: A Music Teacher's Guide to Dalcroze Eurhythmics" by Marla Butke & David Frego, go to the MUSIC IS ELEMENTARY booth or go to this link -

<https://musiciselementary.com/product/meaningful-movement-a-music-teachers-guide-to-dalcroze-eurhythmics/>

Elastics (\$20 for 200) - Contact Hanes Brands, Inc. Attn. Nancy Terry. Her e-mail is nancy.terry@hanesbrands.com. The address is 1904 Clark Road, Box 669, Clarksville, AR 72830, phone 479-979-3492

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