

## “Adding Meaningful Movement to Canons Using Dalcroze Eurhythmics”

FMEA 2025 Conference

Dr. Marla Butke & Dr. David Frego

[marlabutke1@gmail.com](mailto:marlabutke1@gmail.com) & [rjdfrego@gmail.com](mailto:rjdfrego@gmail.com)

This session will explore combining movement with singing songs in canon to increase independent singing and listening skills. Canons require a high level of musicianship to be executed accurately and expressively. Aural maturity, whereby students can hear music while producing music concurrently, can be taught effectively by adding kinesthetic activities to activate the entire body in the process of canonic singing. During this session participants will use a variety of physical means to increase brain activity, therefore assisting in the concentration, comprehension, and memorization of singing the canons. Specifically, students will work in small groups tapping their own part into another singer’s hand while tapping their own parts, feel the melodic rhythm of multiple parts with elastics, and walk through space to be able to hear all of the parts around them. Allowing students to involve the kinesthetic, aural, and visual sensations can strengthen their musicality as well as add variety and interest in the choral rehearsal or general music classroom.

### Session Outline

#### **1. Donkeys and Carrots**

- Sing and tap beat
- Sing and do articulation gestures (paint and flick)
- Sing, do articulation gestures, and walk beat
- Sing, do articulation gestures, walk beat, and sing in canon

#### **2. Frere Jacques**

- Sing and walk the melodic rhythm
- Sing and walk the melodic rhythm four beats behind the voice
- Sing and walk the melodic rhythm eight beats behind the voice
- Do all three patterns in order: no canon; canon at 4 beats; canon at 8 beats

#### **3. Canon in Five (Anne Farber)**

- Step the natural minor scale
- Sing the song in *sofège* while walking the beat; change direction at each measure
- Sing the words and step the melodic rhythm
- Sing in canon—twice through

#### **4. Dona Nobis Pacem**

- Sing and tap macro-beat
- Form pairs, sing song, and pull elastics to dotted half notes
- Pull elastics to melodic rhythm and sing song
- Form groups of 3 and sing song in canon while pulling elastics to melodic rhythm

#### **5. Hashivenu**

- Sing and sway to macro-beat

- Sing and tap melodic rhythm
- Form large circle, sing, and tap melodic rhythm in palm of student on right
- In the circle, sing in canon, tapping your own part in the palm of student on right

## 6. Rise Up O Flame

- Sing and tap macro-beat
- Sing and tap melodic rhythm
- Form one line (train), sing, and tap macro-beat
- In train, sing, tap melodic rhythm on shoulder in front of you, and walk to the macro-beat
- In train, sing in canon, tap melodic rhythm on shoulder in front of you and walk to the macro-beat
- Repeat last step while singing inside of your head

## 7. Des Prez *Benedictus*

- Sing a *do* to high *re* scale up and down while walking a steady beat
- Sing a *re* to high *re* scale, turning it around on the low *do*
- Sing the first two lines of the *Benedictus* while walking the half note
- Sing the first line twice as slow
- Sing the Canon at augmentation

### References:

Butke, M. A. & Frego, R. J. D. (2021). *Dalcroze Eurhythmics in the Choral Classroom*. Milwaukee, Hal Leonard. ISBN: 978-1-70513-344-6 (Amazon)

Butke, M. A. & Frego, R. J. D. (2016). *Meaningful Movement: A Music Teacher's Guide to Dalcroze Eurhythmics*. Cleveland, Music is Elementary. ISBN: 978-0-9910656-7-7

Marla & David's website: [www.butkefregodalcroze.com](http://www.butkefregodalcroze.com)

The American Eurhythmics Society (AES) [www.americaneurhythmics.org](http://www.americaneurhythmics.org)

Information on Elastics: Go to etsy.com, enter JuliandMila