

Step Out and Improvise!

Brought to you by Emma Shaner -Cody Elementary, Millard Public Schools 21-22

While student teaching with Tena Whiston in the spring of 2017, we came across this anonymous text in a “music quotes” booklet:

*In life, it's great to follow the melody
and sing along in harmony
but be sure to take risks... step out and improvise!*

We used it as a rhythmic speech piece with 4th and 5th grade and Tena wanted to share it at an upcoming GPOC workshop. Loving the text, I decided to recreate the mini quotation from the book and created a visual poster to go along. I did not know at the time that Tena would be sharing my visual with the workshop participants and was overjoyed that she loved it enough to pass it along to our colleagues.

In keeping with the theme of *risk-taking*, while in Orff level III at UNL (Summer 2021) I really wanted to be open to the idea of writing a canon, and overall commit to creating more of my own original content. I knew immediately this was the text I wanted to use and let it marinate in my head for several days. One evening during the two week course, I was cooking dinner at home and humming different melodies to match the words when I landed on this final product. A big thank you goes out to Karen Benson, Kayla Coughlin, and Danielle Zimmerman for helping me get what was in my head on to the score!!

I hope you enjoy this little ditty as much as I have. And please let me know if you have any ideas for instrumentation or secondary vocals! Enjoy ♥

-Emma Shaner

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Text Anonnymous

Arr. Emma Shaner

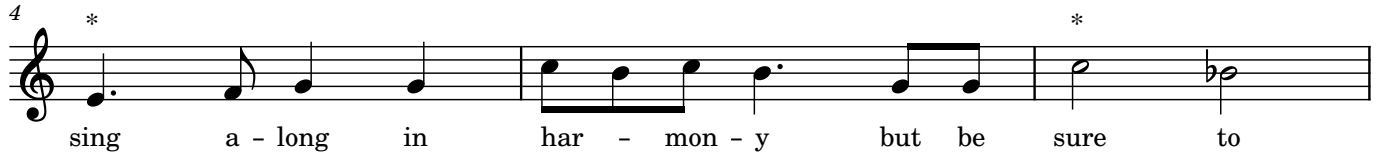
$\text{♩} = 160$
Swing

4



In life it's great to fol - low the mel - o - dy and

4



sing a - long in har - mon - y but be sure to

7



take risks, step out and im - pro - vise

In life, it's great
to follow the music
and sing along in
harmony

But be sure
to take risks!

Step out and
improvise!