

57

CATEGORY

vocal

AGE

12+

NUMBER
OF PARTICIPANTS

5+

DURATION

approx. 30 min.

WORKING METHOD

- group work

MUSICAL ABILITIES
OF THE TRAINERS

1 2 3 4 5 6

EQUIPMENT
AND INSTRUMENTS

- music player / app to play the song

COMPETENCES

- cultural / intercultural sensitivity
- sense of language
- perception
- attention
- cooperation

Twinkle, Twinkle

Introducing new aspects of a popular European melody.

AIM

In addition to singing the well-known melody together, the participants also listen to the lyrics in different languages and discuss how the same melody can appear in other cultures as well.

DESCRIPTION

We first sing the melody that everyone knows together, and then we ask the participants to tell us when they first encountered it.

After recalling the memories, we present the song in several languages, and the participants can guess in which language they heard it. Then we ask the participants how they think it is possible that the same melody appears in so many languages. The participants say what they think about it, without considering any possible version (singers, performers, spread of sheet music, etc.) as the only true one (Youtube and Facebook can of course be excluded, because we are talking about old times).

After thinking together, we show the version of the song sung in several languages and the Mozart arrangement. We can also try to sing in foreign languages.

COMMENTS FOR FACILITATORS

About the melody:

The origin of „Ah! vous dirai-je, maman” is a bit clouded, with an “anonymous” pastoral song being credited with the melody. The song dates back to 1740, while the lyrics incorporated within are relatively new. In 1761, the melody was first published, while the first publication of the melody combined with the lyrics goes back to 1774.

“Ah! vous dirai-je, maman” is a French children’s melody/song which was popularized by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart when he created “Twelve Variations” based on it. Since it’s composition, several different versions of it have been created using diverse themes and lyrics.

Several songs over the years have been based on this melody, and also in several languages. In English alone, three popular children’s song is based on it: “Alphabet Song,” “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” and “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep.”

Other prominent versions are included: “Morgen kommt der Weihnachtsmann” (Germany), “Hull a pelyhes fehér hó” (Hungary), “Campanita del lugar” (Spain), and “Daha Dün Annemizin” (Turkey).

LYRICS

English	<i>Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high, Like a diamond in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are.</i>
French	<i>Ah ! Vous dirai-je maman Ce qui cause mon tourment? Moi je dis que les bonbons Valent mieux que la raison. Papa veut que je raisonne Comme une grande personne.</i>
Hungarian	<i>Hull a pelyhes fehér hó, jöjj el kedves Télapó! Minden gyermek várva vár, vidám ének hangja száll. Van zsákodban minden jó, piros alma, mogyoró, Jöjj el hozzánk, várunk rád, kedves öreg Télapó.</i>
German	<i>Morgen kommt der Weihnachtsmann, Kommt mit seinen Gaben. Bunte Lichter, Silberzier, Kind mit Krippe, Schaf und Stier, Zottelbär und Pantertier Möcht' ich gerne haben!</i>
Spanish	<i>Campanita del lugar, suena alegre, suena, noche en que Jesús nació, que a la Humanidad salvó. Campanita del lugar, suena alegre, suena.</i>

**USEFUL LINKS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n38kGst16sl>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTP4F2xV4WE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3EKBv6fABY>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rK6nYIk4_hw
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lKuL84zik0>
 Mozart: Twelve Variations
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyhxeo6zLAM>

