



Musical Ospreys

Aims & Objectives:

1. Inspire pupils to use something from the natural world to influence their music – in this case the osprey.
2. Motivate pupils to write their own song and set it to an existing tune.
3. Practise using the keyboard to produce a tune as they experiment with phrases for their song.
4. IT research to explore the field of birds in music.
5. Practise video and music skills to produce a video of their osprey song.
6. Opportunity to share their music video with other schools via Skype.

Introduction:

A group of children and their teacher were so inspired by the ospreys that they saw migrating over their homes that they wrote a song. They performed it live on a 4 way Skype call held at the end of World Osprey Week (WOW) in 2014.

Schools in Italy, Spain, UK and the USA were all part of this Skype call and all who heard the song loved it!

You can see a film of the song at <http://www.lrwt.org.uk/osprey-videos> there is also an English translation of the words.

Lesson Plan

1. Show your pupils the video of the Basque children for inspiration.
2. Show them some of the photos and videos of ospreys available on the website at www.ospreys.org.uk or refer them to some of the other WOW activities they have been doing during World Osprey Week (WOW)
3. Set them the task of writing lyrics for their own osprey inspired song which can be set to music or a song that they already know.
4. Sing the songs using a Karaoke machine or keyboard or other musical instrument accompaniment.(Depends on student experience and ability)

Musical Ospreys cont.

Extension Ideas:

1. Film your song and produce a music video, possibly including some osprey inspired dance. Make it part of the next World Osprey Week (WOW)!
2. Research how other birds have been used in music or songs.
 - **Which** birds have been used?
 - Did the **composer** take their inspiration from a real bird name or was it just a name that fitted the music of the song?
 - Did the composer **study the bird** and **accurately portray** it in the music?
 - Did the composer **just use a birds name** and make up the rest?
 - Did the composer use a **mythical** rather than a real bird?

For Example:

1. **The Lark Ascending by Ralph Vaughn Williams.**

Clearly Williams based his music on the song of a real skylark. He also knew the habits of the bird and the way they rise up and sing. This is clearly conveyed in the music.
2. **A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square.**

The composer knows nothing about nightingales, except that they sometimes sing at night. In fact they are most unlikely to be anywhere near a city, if there was a bird singing at night in Berkeley square it was almost certainly a robin. Robins are very common in cities, often sing at night and sound a bit like nightingales.
3. **Bluebirds Over the White cliffs of Dover.**

Several British birds are blue in colour, but none of them are called 'Bluebirds'. Was the composer referring to something else, in the use of the words Blue Birds? Perhaps the lyrics "Blue birds over... the White cliffs of Dover..." just fitted the music.