

TEACHING TIPS:

- Lots of energetic physical warm-ups will get the children in the right mood for singing this upbeat song.
- Encourage the class to count the 8 bars of introduction (1 2 3 4, 2 2 3 4, 3 2 3 4 etc.) so that they are ready to come in in bar 9. It's good practice to do this even if you are using the Words on Screen program.
- The melody of the verse should be straightforward to learn as the second phrase is pretty much the same as the first. However, notice the difference between the rhythm for 'Hello spring' and 'lighter days'. Clap these rhythms and practise them a few times separately to ensure they are accurate.

Notation

Sing

Play

Improvise

Listen

Compose

Genre/History/Musicians

WHAT'S ACHIEVABLE?

- To hear the difference between major and minor keys (tonality).
- To improvise a tune in a major or minor key.
- To compose a short melody with lyrics in a major or minor key.

LISTEN

Listen to some other songs in major keys, such as The Beatles' *Let It Be* or Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*. Now listen to some in minor keys, such as Pink Floyd's *Another Brick In The Wall* or The Beatles' *Eleanor Rigby*. Can the children suggest songs that they know and work out if they are in a major or a minor key?

ACTIVITY

AGES
5 - 11



Explore what makes this such

a cheerful song. Children might mention the lyrics. Discuss the contrast between winter's **dark and dreary, cold and frosty** weather and spring's **warm and lighter days, sunshine and blue skies**. Write these words up on the board in Winter and Spring columns.

Explain to the class that every piece of music is built on a **scale** or **key**, i.e. a set of notes that go up and down. In C major these notes are C D E F G A B C. All play or sing them up and down. But in C minor, two of the notes are changed – the E becomes E \flat , and the A becomes A \flat . Now play or sing C D E \flat F G A \flat B C. Can the children hear the difference? How would they describe this? Does it change the mood? **Major keys** are often described as sounding 'happy' – whereas **minor keys** can be thought of as 'sad'. Can the children hear if this song is in a major or minor key? (*It's in C major.*)

Set up two sets of chime bars behind a screen (some large books or folders would do). One with the notes C D E F G (a mini or 'micro' scale) and one with the notes C D E \flat F G. Ask for two volunteers to improvise a short tune (starting and finishing on C) on each of the sets of chime bars. Can the rest of the class tell whether they are playing a major or a minor tune?

PITCH

Scale – an arrangement of notes in ascending or descending order of pitch

Key – a group of notes that correspond to a certain scale and form the tonal centre of a section of music

Tonality – the harmonic effect of being in a particular key

STEP IT UP!

Split the class into small groups, some with minor-key chime bars and some with major-key ones. Using the appropriate words from the board, and any other winter/spring words they want to add, can they **write their own Winter or Spring Song?**

WHAT YOU NEED

Sets of chime bars (one with C D E F G and another with C D E \flat F G), large books/folders