

32 Heatwave

RESOURCES ▶ CD tracks 49 (performance) and 50 (backing) ▶ Warm ups: Nos. 16b, 24

Information

'Heatwave' is a fun song which harnesses a contemporary, rock style to a topical and important message. At the outset it could be an advertising jingle for this new suntan cream, but it turns into a warning about the dangers of being exposed to the sun. The song uses the 'blues' scale (which is also used in song No. 20, 'Hey diddle diddle') and the chromaticisms and rhythmic syncopations are challenging, but ultimately quite approachable by singers in the age-range, who will recognize the idiom.

Starting

- Warm up by singing the blues scale up and down (pick a scat syllable like 'do'). Start slowly to get the feel of the shape and intervals of the scale and then inject some rhythm.



- Chant the words of the opening two bars; aim for energy and an accent on 'sun'.

Teaching and rehearsing

- Teach the first eight bars of the song, which simply go up and down the blues scale. From the start, sing with conviction and style and with good syncopations on 'sun-', 'slap it on', etc.; start hushed and crescendo up to 'enjoy yourself'.
- Try the link phrase 'and have some fun with', which leads back to the opening. This wants to be very smooth, with the words almost run together, in contrast to the punchy detached style of the first two lines. Sing through what you've learnt so far.
- Teach the middle 8 of the song (bars 9–16). Chant the words of bars 9–14 in rhythm; you'll find that these will 'stick' quickly because they are instantly memorable (and of course begin by quoting Noël Coward's classic song lyric). Then add in the tune.
- Chant the words of bars 15–16, aiming for a really big crescendo from quiet to loud; then add the notes.
- Bars 17–25 split into two parts, but for now sing the main tune, which is an exact repeat of the opening. Sing through to this point to give a sense of shape.
- To teach the descant part to bars 17–23, first sing the following descending phrase to 'ooh' (or you could sing to numbers: 8764). This could be a warm-up activity for a subsequent session:



Then develop this into the phrase itself. Make sure the syncopations are right. Split the group in two and try this section in two parts, listening carefully to ensure the lines are sung accurately and fit together; listen out especially for the last note of this phrase (the F), which clashes with the melody note G in bars 18 and 22.

- Finally, sing the coda. The first two bars need to be sung quite freely (here is the moral message—is this a parent nagging?); and then back to tempo and a strong sound for the last two bars. These two phrases could be taken by a soloist and then the group.

Ideas

- Offbeat finger-clicks would add to the style and would also provide a 'cool' fill to bars 25–6 (*and* help count these properly!). Alternatively in these bars the singers could imitate a drumkit roll.
- The first eight bars may be sung unaccompanied before adding the piano second time through.

Listen out

- Make sure intonation is accurate, with the semitones of the blues scale firmly in place.
- Check that the words are strong and clear. Use them to convey the images: exaggerate the 'p's of 'strip' and 'slap' and lick your lips; enjoy the words 'smooth and creamy'.
- The two parts need to be well balanced; don't let the upper part dominate and ensure the tune itself can be clearly heard.
- Practise the ending so that the singers understand and feel the changes of dynamics and speed; at the same time, it needs to sound spontaneous—almost an afterthought. Make sure singers can pitch the first note of the coda accurately from the previous melody note (C in bar 25).

Performing

- The song is sung through twice: go back to the beginning at the end of bar 26, second time through go to the coda; do the repeat at the start both times.
- If at all possible, add in some rock instruments to really lift the song.
- The backing track starts with a short introduction—count two bars.

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Rock style ♩ = 150 Straight 8s

Kevin Stannard

mp

'Heat - wave' sun - tan lo - tion, Top - class so - phi-sti-cat-ed po - tion,
'Heat - wave' sun - tan lo - tion, Get hooked with pure de - vo - tion,

mp

5 *cresc.* *f* *mp*

Strip right off and slap___ it on___ en - joy your-self, and have some fun_ with
Smooth and crea-my, it's___ the biz: 'Heat -

cresc. *f* *mp*

7 *f*

- wave' it is!___ Mad dogs and___

f *f*

10

Eng-lish - men go out in the mid-day sun.____

13

Feel cool as you go to bed, - Wake up in the morn-ing with a

sub. p

16

bo-dy red, red, red, red, red, red! 'Heat - wave' ooh____

'Heat - wave' sun - tan lo - tion,

f

mf

19

'Heat - wave' ooh _____ 'Heat - wave' ooh

Top - class so - phi - sti - cat - ed po - tion, Strip right off and slap

22 D.C.

_____ en - joy your-self, and have some fun_ with me!

— it on_ en - joy your-self, and have some fun_ with me! 2nd time:
straight on

⊕ CODA

27 *mf* freely *f* tempo

How does it feel to peel? Fac-tor thir-ty - six from now on!_____

mf *f* *ff*