

# OM JAI JAGADISH HARE

Traditional Hindi (Arr Amruta Garud & River Music Project)



## ABOUT THIS SONG

Om Jai Jagadish Hare is a well-known and popular Aarti – a devotional Hindu song. Aartis are often performed in Hindu ceremonies and at the end of prayers. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu who, in the Hindu faith, is considered the supreme lord of the Universe. It was written in 1870 by a famous literary figure: Pandit Shardha Ram Phillauri, and it is now sung by almost every Hindu family all over the world.

## THEMES/SUBJECTS

Celebration / prayer / family / world

## CURRICULUM KEY LINKS

Languages, Literacy & Communication  
Humanities  
Expressive Arts

## DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

### Vocal range

An 8th

### Vocal format

Unison/verse and chorus structure

### Musical elements

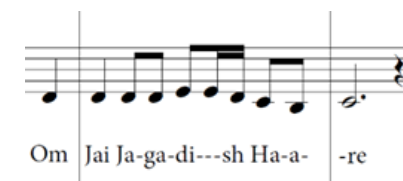
Structure and form

### Musical characteristics

Verse and chorus, melody with added decorative parts

## Warm-up Exercises

- Without touching anybody else, ask learners to lean forward until they find the point where it is very hard to control their balance; they should then move back to their original position. Repeat the exercise and remind learners of good singing posture when standing.
- Ask learners to stand with their feet apart, and both arms loosely by their side. Ask them to breathe in and blow out deeply, first placing both hands on their ribs at the side, and then on their lower back. Learners should be able to feel the movement all round. If you have the space, repeat this exercise with learners lying on the floor to see if it feels the same. Breathing requires control from the whole of the upper body.
- Demonstrate the characteristic rhythm of the song. Ask learners to echo back the lyrics of the chorus. Sing the response on a starting note of your choice (such as D above middle C), then move the starting note up the scale getting higher every time.



## Suggested key links with other Areas, cross-cutting themes &/or local, national and international contexts

- Three traditional Indian instruments are used for the accompaniment of the song. These are the Tabla/drum, Tambour and Harmonium. Find out more about these and the many other traditional Indian instruments. How do they compare with other countries' traditional instruments?
- Discover more about the different Hindu ceremonies and celebrations. Do we have similar ones in Wales? How do they compare?
- This Aarti is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Find out more about the different Hindu Gods and deities. Compare Hinduism with other religions – what similarities and differences are there?
- Hindi is the official language of India and is spoken by more than 420 million people around the world. The Hindi language is written in the Devanagari writing system. Find out more about it.

**GRADING: CHALLENGING**

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## Teaching and learning

- 1 Explain to learners that the words of this song are in Hindi, the language of Hindus. \*The interactive screen uses the correct spelling of the lyrics. The lyrics sheet includes a phonetic pronunciation of the words, and it is recommended you use this for pronunciation when teaching the lyrics.
- 2 Listen to the song all the way through. Notice that the melody repeats and there are also repeated phrases.
- 3 Say the first line of the chorus aloud in the rhythm of the song then ask children to repeat it using the 'I say, you say,' technique. It is useful to note that many words have an 'uh' sound added to the end of them which often gives the illusion of an added syllable. It is for this reason we recommend using the lyrics sheet to help with pronunciation when teaching the lyrics. Use this method to learn the lyrical rhythm of the whole of the chorus.
- 4 Once confident, listen to the chorus and learn the melody line by line, using the 'I sing, you Sing,' technique. If you are not confident doing this, use the Screen and play the line to the children before toggling back and repeating it for them to sing along to. Sing along with the chorus using the Screen and repeat until confident.
- 5 Listen to Verse 1 all the way through. Note that there is a repetition of line 4. The final line returns to the familiar 'Om Jai Jagadish Hare'.
- 6 Learn Verse 1 words using the same 'I say, you say,' technique and then teach the melody using 'I Sing, you Sing' as before.
- 7 You may find that learning the Chorus and Verse 1 is enough progress for one session and decide to tackle Verse 2 in the following session. In which case, play the song in its entirety encouraging children to sing verse one and the chorus every time it appears to the end.
- 8 Recap the Chorus and Verse 1 before playing Verse 2 to the children. Introduce the words a line at a time in the rhythm of the song using 'I Say, You Say'.
- 9 The melody of Verse 2 is the same as Verse 1. Use the phonetic lyric sheet to help you to place the syllable sounds correctly. Teach the melody of Verse 2 using the 'I sing, you sing' technique.
- 10 Once confident, go back to the beginning of the song and sing through both verses and all the choruses.

## Integral Skills

- Once confident with the main melody, have a go at learning the harmony line. Note how this is often a third or fifth above or below the main melody. Split the class into groups and allocate a part to each group. Can they keep singing their harmony correctly when the other groups are singing too?
- The chimes are keeping the steady beat throughout the song. This sounds much like a tambourine. Ask children to choose a similar sounding instrument and maintain the steady beat while listening to and singing along with the song.
- The Tabla are the drums used in the piece and are played with both fingers and palms. In this piece there are set rhythms played but also some improvisation. Ask children to experiment on classroom percussion instruments and improvise their own rhythm using both fingers and palms to create different effects that compliment the style of the piece.

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## Statements of what matters:

- *Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individual*
- *Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination*

- Look at the meaning of the words. This is a prayer to Lord Vishnu. Ask children to write their own lyrics that can be sung to the melody that are inspired by the original ones. Can they fit them to the same syllables as the original?
- Find a video of the song and dance being performed. Are there any specific steps or moves? Learn some traditional dance moves. Can children create their own Indian dance to the song?
- The use of colourful, ornate costumes, jewellery and make-up is important in Hindu song performances. This links aspects of drama and staging into their performance. Find out more about these aspects.

## Assessment for Learning:

- *Responding and reflecting, both as artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive arts*

## Questioning

### Tool: No hands-up approach

- Give me an example of a rhythm introduced in this song. Is this a dotted or a straight rhythm?
- How could we improve our overall performance?
- How else can we perform this song? Consider instrumentation and movement.

## Feedback

### Tool: How to improve

Show learners through target setting how to improve. A suitable target for some would be to support their breathing to sing the phrase on one breath, or sing using the correct rhythm. For others, it might be to focus on achieving crisp diction. Demonstrate yourself or play the recording. After giving learners time to improve, check that targets have been reached.

## Self- and peer assessment

### Tool: Learner-to learner dialogue

- Ask learners to take it in turns to be the teacher when discussing the performance and to ask questions. You may need to give them some suggestions of possible questions, for example:
- Was this a hard or easy song to learn? Why?
  - What do you like/dislike about this song?



**GRADING: CHALLENGING**