

# Let's Write a Class Song

*May be used with the Kara DioGuardi lesson found in Volume 10, No. 1, August/September 2009 Music Express.*

Compose a class song where everyone gets to contribute a note. Display an empty staff in the key of C in common time. For younger classes, you may choose to display a note-value chart and a pitch chart in the key of C. Then set some "rules" for your class song:

1. This song will have four beats in each measure. (Review 4/4 time signature.)
2. The quarter note will receive one beat. (Review note values.)
3. Each student will come to the staff and contribute one note of his/her choice. He/She will draw it on the staff at any pitch, in any note value. You may wish to limit the number of whole notes allowed. If you have thirty students and each one writes a whole note, the song could be very long. The teacher might like to begin with the tonic note. **SAY Remember, each measure gets four beats. If you have "completed" a measure by contributing the fourth beat, you must draw a barline to show the measure is done.** The next student then begins in a new measure with a note pitch and value of his/her choice.
4. When each student has contributed a note to the class song, the teacher will complete the last measure if needed. (The song will sound "finished" if the last pitch is on the tonic note.)
5. Teacher and or class will sing or play the class song. Because of the class contribution process, the song is likely to sound very random, with no phrasing or form. You may wish to develop a discussion on this with upper grades.
6. If desired, you may add lyrics.
7. By using the *Music Express* manuscript paper available at [www.musicexpressmagazine.com](http://www.musicexpressmagazine.com), Teachers' Corner, Music Worksheets, have students copy the class song to practice their music writing skills.