

Rote Song Analysis/Plan

Name: Alexandra Aber

"No Fear" Teaching Episode, MUS 126A

Name of the song:	"Got the Keys to the Kingdom" - Gospel arrangement (by me)
Composer/origin:	African American Spiritual, performed in 1937 by Lillie Knox, a Gullah Geechee woman from Murrells Inlet, recorded by John Lomax
Key/Mode:	B minor
Meter:	2/4 - I would teach this in gospel style and with more of a swung 4/4 or fast 6/8 feel (I would essentially "arrange" this without writing it out in 4/4 or a fast 6/8 later teaching the chorus part in 3-part harmony, and letting students take solos)
Number of phrases:	4 (I would only teach the chorus to the entire group)
Potential trouble spots:	Entry on the pick-up, differing rhythms on the words "I got the" (although this may not need not be precise stylistically, and I would likely arrange this with consistent rhythms throughout - 16th - 8th - 16th), differing pitches on the words "I got the" on phrases 1 and 3, <i>do do la sol la</i> on "do me no harm" rather than <i>do la sol la</i>

Score for the song (may be scanned). Please label the phrases with numbers or letters:

Swung (1) (2)

I got the keys to the King-dom the

world can't do me no harm I got the

③



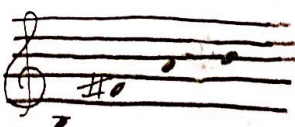



Keys to the King-dom . The

④

world can't do me no harm.

Step-by-step Teaching Plan

Be as specific as possible

Length of time	Task/Action
3 seconds	Sing la minor melodic context on neutral syllable
30 seconds	Sing "repeat after me" on <i>La la la sol la</i> . Demonstrate and have students echo the following tonal sequences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • la do re mi  • la do mi  • la mi sol la  • la sol mi  • mi re do la  • do sol la 

45 seconds	Sing on <i>la sol la</i> "Snap and stomp as I sing this song..." Then sing entire chorus 2 times
1 minute	Hold up one finger, singing, "phrase 1. Sing after me (on <i>la</i>) <i>I got the keys to the kingdom</i> . 1, 2, ready and-a sing"(on <i>la</i>) •wait for repeat
	Hold up second finger, singing " <i>the world can't do me no harm</i> . 1, 2, ready and-a sing" (on <i>la</i>) •wait for repeat
	Hold up third finger, singing " <i>I got the keys to the kingdom</i> . 1, 2, ready and-a sing" (on <i>mi</i>) • wait for repeat
	Hold up fourth finger, singing " <i>The world can't do me no harm</i> . 1, 2, ready and-a sing" (on <i>la</i>) • wait for repeat
1 minute	Hold up one finger, then two fingers, singing first two phrases, then "1, 2, ready and-a sing" (on <i>la</i>) • wait for repeat
	Hold up three fingers, then 4 fingers, singing second two phrases, then "1, 2, ready and-a sing" (on <i>la</i>) • wait for repeat
Insert extra 30 seconds here for correcting pitches through call-and response	
45 seconds	Sing, "Now let's put the whole thing together. a-1, a-2, a-ready here ya go..." •Sing along first time, then drop out after "I've got the" and let the choir repeat the entire chorus by themselves
1 minute	Sing verse 1 or 3 and the lead in, "I've got the" •choir sings entire chorus by themselves •If they are extra confident, at this point let them continue and sing along on a harmony part
3 seconds	rit., repeating, " <i>The world can't do me no harm</i> "

Got the Keys to the Kingdom

Informant/Performer:
Lillie Knox
Murrells Inlet, SC, 1937

Source:
Library of Congress AFS 1041 A1
Collected by John A. Lomax

Chorus: *1

I got the keys to the king-dom, the world can't do me no harm;

I got the keys to the king-dom, the world can't do me no harm.

1. Go, Ga-briel, get your trum-pet, move on down to the sea;

*2 Don't you sound that trum-pet till you hear from me. (I got the)

(to chorus)

Transcribed by Gail Needleman

*1 alt. *2a verses 2 and 3 *2b verse 4

Chorus:

I got the keys to the kingdom, the world can't do me no harm;
I got the keys to the kingdom, the world can't do me no harm.

2. Take old John on the island, place him in a kettle of oil.
Angel came from heaven down and told him that the oil wouldn't boil.
(Chorus)
3. Take old Paul and Silas, place 'em in jail below;
Angel came from heaven down and unlocked the prison-house door.
(Chorus)
4. When I get in trouble, know I've done no crime,
Ring up Central in glory; Jesus come to the phone.
(Chorus)

2nd chorus (same melody as chorus):

I've got the keys in my bosom, carry it everywhere I go;
I've got the keys in my bosom, and the world can't do me no harm.