Rote Song Treasure Hunt

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“The Shower” is a German Folk-song that was published in 1921 by E.C. Schirmer Music Co. which is in the Harvard College Library, transferred from The Graduate School of Education. In the books preface, it is noted that the songs throughout its pages have been selected “for the purpose of awakening and cultivating the taste of young children for the best music.” This should be done by teaching the students to learn them by ear. Germany’s folk songs for children are sunny and optimistic, and have little relation to authentic German folk traditions. Most folk songs in the book, including “The Shower,” were originally sung as pure melodies without accompaniment. I added a very simple bass line for the purpose of practicing teaching the difference in sound between dominant and tonic chords.

The book also focuses on relatable material for young children, such as thunderstorms, trees, birds, sleeping, etc…They have a range of keys and time signatures. The one I chose is in 3/8, which could be difficult to teach young children because of their comfortability with duple meters. It flows smoothly with pick-ups, which can be related to the falling rain that the song is about.

