

# OH! I MUST GO TO LONDON

CD track 21 [piano only track 22]

A 'call and response' [question and answer] song set in Victorian times

## Notes

The song is written in a minor key which can convey an air of sadness, wistfulness or reflection

As the song unfolds, the narrator grows more and more unwilling to travel to the city

## Warm-up

Maintain a slow pulse beat, drumming on knees, while counting 1 2 3 4, followed by 4 'silent' beats

X X X X - - - - X X X X - - - - X X X X - - - - X X X X - - - - X X X X - - - -

In the 4 silent beats, a single child improvises a clapped rhythm pattern after which the rest of the group drums the next 4 pulse beats: maintain this pattern, moving round the circle to give everyone a turn at improvisation. This activity follows the 'question and answer' structure of the song, encouraging the children to keep strict time and come in exactly on cue

## Teaching the Song

Listen to CD track 21 and talk about the leader's reluctance to go to London. Can the children invent a scenario for this song?

Discuss the vocabulary: e.g. *omnibus, horse and cart* and talk about which class of Victorian society would have used these types of transport

Listen again and join in with the short responses: '*to London Town*'

Now join in with all the responses, taking particular care with the stepping notes in the third response: '*a horse and cart will let you down*'

## Extension

Divide into two groups for the Call and Response parts

## Words for other verses

V2: I really should go to London, *to London Town*, **[repeat]**

I'll wear a pair of boots to town; *a pair of boot will let you down*,

Then how will I get to London, *to London Town*

V3: I ought to go to London, *to London town*, **[repeat]**

I'll take an omnibus to town; *an omnibus will let you down*,

Then how will I get to London, *to London Town*

V4: Then I won't go to London, *to London town*, **[repeat]**

I'll stay with all the friends I've found; *the friends you've found won't let you down*,

Then I won't go to London, *to London Town*

# Oh, I must go to London

Nicholls arr Green

Leader/Echo

Oh! I must go to

Em C Em B Em

Lon - don, to Lon - don town. Oh I must go to Lon - don, to Lon - don

C B7 Em G Em D7

town. I'll take a horse and cart to town, a horse and cart will

G Am Em Am

**Fine**

let you down. Then how will I get to Lon - don, to Lon - don town.

B7 Em C B7 Em