

## Learning Lots with Monteverdi's Gloria A Learning Collection of 40 Projects

The Bridge Singers is the community choir based in Felton. Formed in 2015, the choir goes from strength to strength. Many of its members are also involved in Felton Music activities.

In 2019, the choir tackled Monteverdi's Gloria for 8 voices, the longest piece they have taken on so far. It offers lots of opportunities for learning about music. The knowledge and understanding gained may help individuals feel even more confident in performance. His set of materials is dedicated to The Bridge Singers who never fight shy of a challenge, and their inspiring director, Cheryl Camm.

While members of The Bridge Singers have the advantage of knowing the piece and having access to a vocal score, anyone is most welcome to use the materials. The Gloria is a wonderful piece. You can download a pdf of the score for free at [http://www2.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Gloria\\_a\\_8\\_\(Claudio\\_Monteverdi\)](http://www2.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Gloria_a_8_(Claudio_Monteverdi))

This pdf does not name the staves. There are 9 lines of music. The singers for this piece divide into 2 groups, with sopranos, altos, tenors and basses in each. The staves, from the top down are: Soprano 1, Alto 1, Tenor 1, Bass 1, Soprano 2, Alto 2, Tenor 2, Bass 2. The bottom staff, which has no lyrics is for a bass instrument.

You can listen to a performance on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7oQJiwDgIc>  
The piece lasts just over 11 minutes.

Most of the projects are about music knowledge – the stuff that's often called theory. Lots of the later ones apply that knowledge to understand more how music works. The projects are progressive. If you already know quite a bit of music theory you won't need to start at the very beginning. Use the project titles to decide where you need to start. There is a column for you to tick when you have completed a project.

A music keyboard will help you with many of the projects. You can use a real or a virtual one. There is more information about this in the first project. If you feel very unsure about finding your way round a keyboard, work through the downloadable materials Using a Keyboard 101 – 107 on this site.

Code	Content	Done	Category
M 1	Learn there are pitches between the notes of a major scale, find them on a keyboard, and learn what a semitone and a tone are		Musiknow
M 2	Learn how to name the black notes and what "enharmonic" means		Musiknow
M 3	Learn that the sharps, flats and naturals that turn up as you go through the music are called accidentals, and what the rules are so you read accidentals confidently		Musiknow
M 4	Check you are clear about tones, semitones and accidentals		Musiknow
M 5	Practise singing tones and semitones accurately		Musiskill
M 6	Practise singing bits from the Gloria		Musiskill
M 7	Major scale structure		Musiknow
M 8	Difference between major and minor scales – first 5 notes		Musiknow
M 9	Lay the foundations for learning about minor scales by finding out about modes		Musiknow
M 10	Find out why "Scarborough Fair" and "I will Give my Love an Apple" aren't in C major		How Music Works
M 11	Start to understand the Dorian and Aeolian modes as ancestors of the minor scale, and find out how the 7 <sup>th</sup> note of the minor scale was modified		Musiknow
M 12	Learn to recognise music in A minor – spot the G#s		Musiknow
M 13	Solving the dilemma of the 6 <sup>th</sup> note of the minor scale – why you have to be ready for anything		Musiknow
M 14	Check out your knowledge about key signatures		Musiknow

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M 15.1	Study how the keys in the Gloria relate to each other; reference chart		Musiknow
M 15.2	Study how the keys in the Gloria relate to each other; guide to the reference chart		Musiknow
M 16	Look at the key signatures for the keys used in the Gloria		Musiknow
M 17	Learn how to work out a key signature - as far as 4 sharps and flats and why major and minor keys share their key signatures		Musiknow
M 18	Learn what the tonic and dominant are, how they are important and why it's useful to know about them		How Music Works
M 19	Learn 3 basic facts about chords: what a chord is and how chords get their letter names		Musiknow
M 20	Learn that there are major and minor chords and how to hear and work out the difference		Musiknow
M 21	Identify chords in the Gloria		Musiknow
M 22	Learn that you can build chords on any note of the scale, but you don't usually use all of them and find out how the tonic and dominant chords can harmonise a simple tune		Musiknow
M 23	Get to know some useful terminology that helps you to think and talk about chords and learn 2 more chord facts		Musiknow
M 24	Explore a passage in the Gloria applying what you've learned in Activity 23 to understand how Monteverdi uses chords to help express the words		How Music Works
M 25	Learn about the melodies in the Gloria		How Music Works
M 26	Learn about the harmonic framework of the opening section		How Music Works
M 27	Have a break from Monteverdi. Explore a much later piece of music and find out how it relates to the Gloria		How Music Works
M 28	Learn about cadences – musical punctuation		Musiknow
M 29	Learn about suspensions		Musiknow
M 30	Unpick the final cadence learning about the Tierce de Picardie on the way		Musiknow
M 31	Learn how Monteverdi uses modulations and discords to keep the music interesting		How Music Works
M 32	Learn how Monteverdi uses imitation to keep the music interesting		How Music Works
M 33	Why are some sections so hard to sing? Quoniam Tu Solus. Text.		How Music Works
M 34	Why are some sections so hard to sing? Quoniam Tu Solus. Music. (2 sheets)		How Music Works
M 35	Why are some sections so hard to sing? Qui Tollis		How Music Works
M 36	Why are two little bits so special?		How Music Works
M 37	Meet the Chain of Fifths		How Music Works
M 38	Find out how the status of the bass line has changed over the centuries, learn en route what a continuo is and enjoy some other composers' settings of the Gloria		How Music Works
M 39	Structure of the Gloria		How Music Works
M 40	Context of the Gloria		How Music Works