



## The Principles of Classical Pedagogy

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### Lesson 7: Songs, Chants, and Jingles

#### Outline:

##### Songs, Chants, & Jingles

- This pedagogy is in a dynamic relationship with Festina Lente (make haste slowly), one way we slow down is to sing what we want to master and know.
- In Multum non Multa we go deep with what we really want to know, singing helps us with this.
- One way we review what we want to know is to sing and chant passages, truths, maxims, and facts (Repetitio Mater Memoriae).

##### Songs, Chants, & Jingles as a Pedagogy

- Children have great memories. They can see or hear something once and learn it permanently.
- Children also love to sing.
- You should probably use singing and chanting a good deal more than you are.
- Important content can be linked to a song.

##### Why?

- It works.
- A jingle is a short melody that can hook information.
- Songs: Tend to be short, fairly simple. Children can learn long history songs as well.
- Chants: These tend to be a rhythmic chant like Gregorian chants.
- Children love to sing and will sing.
- Children have superior memory ability.

##### Side Benefits of Songs, Chants, & Jingles

- This helps children to engage music:
  - Composing and arranging music, vocal training, and choral singing
- Singing is communal. There is something that happens when we get together and sing.
- Singing and chanting is usually done with other pedagogies, and it is multi-modal.
- Singing is pleasurable.
- Singing cultivates virtue. We tend to sing about the things we admire. We can celebrate what is virtuous and true.



## What?

- We want to focus on singing things worth committing to memory.
- We want to memorize useful information for which you want immediate access.
- Vocabulary: Master and know vocabulary in Latin to enjoy the language.
- Grammar: Learning grammatical rules can make learning more enjoyable and pleasant.
- Math facts, Maxims, Books of the Bible, 12 Sons of Jacob, History
- Great poetry and literature, Scripture
- “Literature is the man.” (G.K. Chesterton)

## Who?

- The focus is primarily grades K-6.
- But the tool should continue even into adulthood.
- It should be present in grades 7-12, but probably not as dominant.
- Older students can be singing with younger students.
- Even medical students sing to memorize.
- Vivarium Novum, which is a Latin immersion program where they speak and sing only in Latin, is outside Rome.
- We can sing when we are responding to the true, good, and beautiful.

## When?

- Younger kids should sing regularly, daily, in the car, in the check-out line, before and after class, and during transitions.
- They can be singing for presentations, visitors, privately, at home, and whenever the students gather.

## How?

- Borrow and steal from others.
- Published curricula: CAP, Veritas Press, Shurley Grammar, etc.
- Compose your own songs and chants.
- Engage someone with composing talent (the music teacher, talented parent, talented upper school students).
- Have your students help compose.
- Consult traditional folk melodies ([SongsforTeaching.com](http://SongsforTeaching.com), [FolkTuneFinder.com](http://FolkTuneFinder.com))
- Vary volume, rhythm, and tempo. Include instruments.

## Samples

- View and listen to samples connected to this course page.
- Call and response
- Chant



- Lyrical folk song
- World music