## Assignment: Moving bordun setting for a Hexatonic or diatonic melody.

- 1. Select a Hexatonic or diatonic song which is suitable for a bordun setting. Review the pitch inventory found on the metric accents.
  - Write the melody on the top staff with the text underneath.
- 2. Write a moving bordun accompaniment on the bottom staff to match the tonality of the melody. Write in pencil! If you are dividing the bordun over two instruments you must use a staff for each; label appropriately.
  - The bordun must sound a **fifth** on every metric accent. The tonic must sound at or below the voice. Then add rhythm to form the moving bordun into a rhythmic ostinato that complements the melody and encourages singing in phrases
  - . Check for parallel motion between the melody and the bordun.

## NO MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE BEATS MAY BE PARALLEL

Does the moving bordun sound an interval of a fifth on every metric accent?
Does the tonic or dominant of the bordun move to a neighboring tone?
Is the bordun in a rhythmic ostinato that complements the melody?
Have you selected instruments that will always sound at or below the voice?

- 3. Create a melodic ostinato that sounds <u>at or above</u> the melody to reinforce the phrase structure or highlight a musical or textural element of the melody. Less is better.
  - The melodic ostinato must stand alone as a melodic fragment that uses pitches from the tonal set of the melody. It must be a repeated pattern that supports the singing. If too much sound is present, the ostinato will become a counter-melody. Use rests to let the melody dominate.
  - This part supports the voice, but does not establish the tonality of the music. Harmony may occur, but avoid dissonant intervals and divergent rhythm.
- 4. Add another rhythmic ostinato for an un-pitched percussion part that keeps the children from rushing.
  - Place this part directly above the bordun staff. Strive for a different ostinato length than your bass part. If all the ostinati are the same length, it will encourage the children to sing in choppy phrases that break the vocal line. Check for parallel rhythms across all voices.

## **Grading Criteria:**

- ✓ The bordun sounds a fifth on every metric accent in a rhythmic ostinato. The tonic sounds at or below the voice.
- ✓ The moving bordun does not form parallel motion with any other melody
- ✓ The melodic ostinato is a melody that supports the voice sparingly in a rhythmic ostinato.
- ✓ The rhythmic ostinato supports the phrase structure of the melody.
- ✓ There are no parallel rhythms or parallel octaves between any voices.
- ✓ The ostinati are not all the same length.