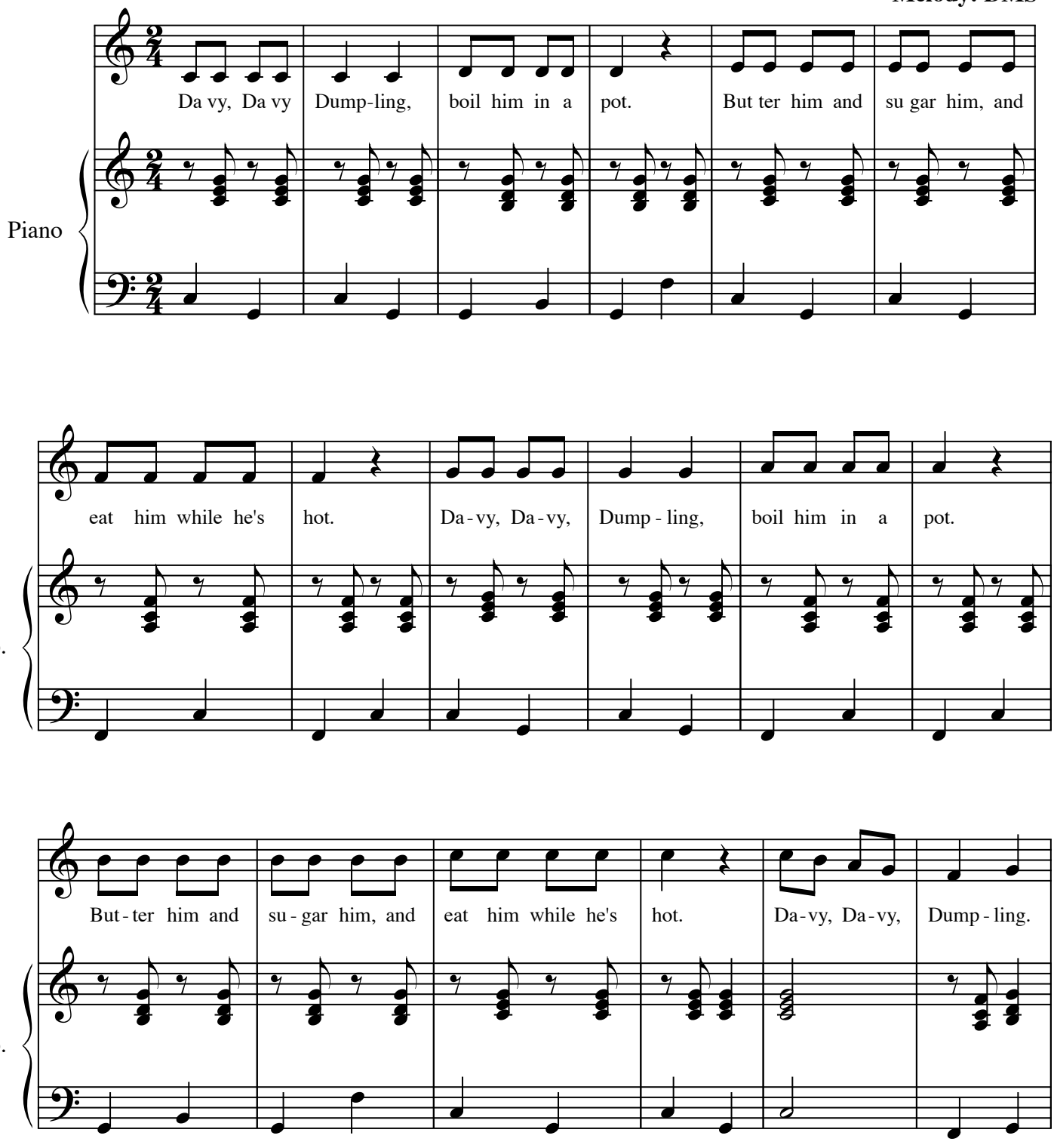
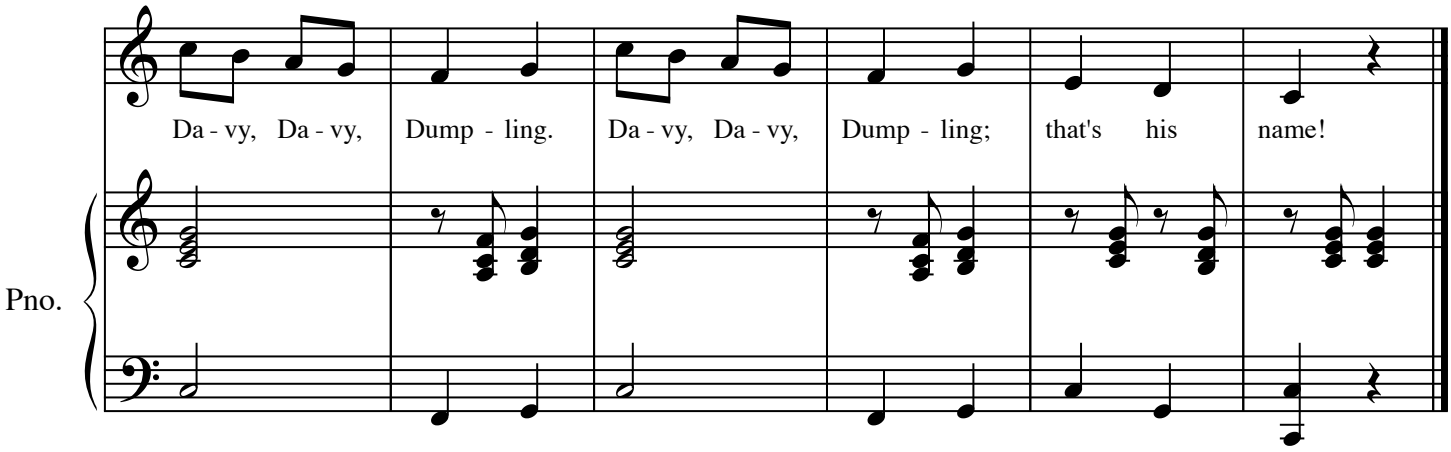
Davy, Davy Dumpling

(For Mallet Technique)

Text: Mother Goose, adapted
Melody: DMS





Process

I like to start from the text, which is on the board.

After speaking the poem (with inflection, as if telling a story), pat the rhythm of the words on your lap. (If your students need more practice, let them snap the rhythm of the words. This still allows the practice of alternating hands. If you clap, only one hand is doing all the work; so this is not the best warm-up for playing the barred instruments.)

At the instruments, play the whole poem on low C, then D, E, and F. (Encourage students to play in the middle of each bar, and to alternate hands.)

Now play only one line of the poem on each bar. So:
C: "Davy, Davy Dumpling"
D: "Boil him in a pot."
E: "Butter him and sugar him."
F: "And eat him while he's hot."

Challenge students to play the same pattern (1 line of text per bar) from G to high C. Play poem twice, from low C to high C. Add the tag. Voila!

This is an excellent window of opportunity to discuss scale and practice the hand signs for non-pentatonic *Fa* and *Ti*.

This can be a round-robin exercise. You (the teacher) can play an interlude at the keyboard while everybody is shifting to the next instrument, or to a waiting turn. It's a great warm-up, but an equally great reward for good behavior.

After playing the melody, ask students to sing it. (Yes, they'll freak out a little bit, but it'll be OK.) Remind them that they know the words, the rhythm of those words, and the melody (tune).