

Introduction to Colourchord

Colourchord is a simple way to sing three part harmony. Harmony is when people sing different notes and they sound nice together.

Colourchord came out of FSC during the lockdown period and we've simplified it here, with eight songs from the new songbook. It works as a vertical activity for all ages, or as a small group of at least three.

There are three 'teams': blue, red, and black. Blue and red sing two notes each, the black team sing the tune, it combines to harmony.

- **Blue** team sing their starting note, unless there's a blue line above a word when they go up one step of the major scale for that word.
- **Red** team sing their starting note, unless there's a red line below a word when they go down one step of the major scale for that word.
- **Black** team just sing the tune.

The **Red** team starts on Note 1 i.e. the note of the key the song is in.

The **Blue** team starts on Note 5 (four notes above the keynote).

The **Black** team starts singing the tune.

You can find the starting notes using the little dots in the first verse of the text - the note of the melody in the word immediately after the blue/black dot is the starting note for blue team, the note of the melody in the word immediately after the red/black dot is the startig note for red team. Or you can work them out using the table below.

People naturally sing the correct 'up or down' notes for red and blue.

Song name	A key for campfire singing (needs instrument)					Word of start note	
	Key of song	Red team		Blue team		Black team (tune)	
		Start note	Red note	Start note	Blue note		
Bold Riley	A	A	↓G#	E	↑F#	E	Rain Oh
Down Where the Drunkards Roll	C	C	↓B	G	↑A	C	See Eyed
Sloop John B	D	D	↓C#	A	↑B	A	Night Town
Thousands or More	D	D	↓C#	A	↑B	A	Time Learnt
Water is Wide	E	E	↓D#	B	↑C#	B	Water Boat

You can make it simpler by just using the melody and the red team.

You can make it more complex by adding in a fourth team. This team sings three notes - sing Note 3 for black words, go up to Note 4 on blue, and down to Note 2 on red.