

September



September, the 1978 hit song by American disco/funk band Earth, Wind & Fire is a timeless favourite, especially at the start of the school year.

Its message of celebration is captured in the infamous "Bah-dee-ya" lyrics.

In this three-part arrangement by Roger Emerson the intro opens with jazz-like scat syllables capturing the essence of the backing instrumental parts.

It is an accessible arrangement featuring plenty of unison and stacked pop harmonies that make it easier to sing than ever!

- Start by learning the scat riff at bar 33 to capture the style.
- Take care of the rhythmical placing of the last syllable of "September" on the first beat of in bar 11.
- Similarly, the final syllable of "pretender" is placed on the first beat of bar 13, "remember" bar 21 etc.
- The sloped lines above notes (eg. soprano bar 25) indicate vocal "tags" – a slide into the note common in pop and jazz styles.

As advised by Maurice White: 'never let the lyric get in the way of the groove.'

Notes for changing voices: in this, as in all the songs, there is a part designed for boys with changing voices, doubled in other parts to provide support on the day.

Here, Tenor/Bass sing the same part, with a range of D by middle C down to the D below, and going no lower than F in the harmony sections.