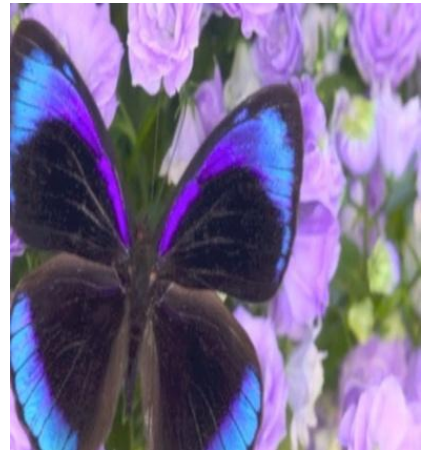


Butterflies (*Christoph Maubach*)

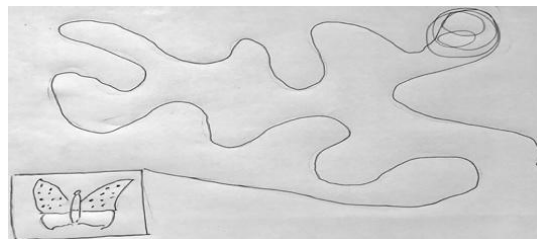
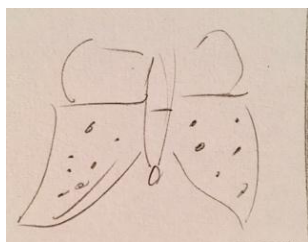
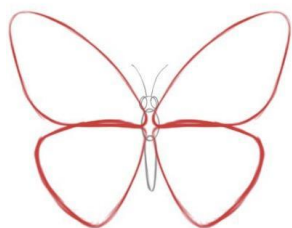


A few years back while in the Far North of New Zealand I was able to observe a Monarch butterfly emerge from its Chrysalis. The beautiful birth of this insect sparked a renewed interest in butterflies with their varied and bright colours and visits to flowers. Butterflies are beautiful creatures and they have inspired artists all over the world for many centuries. Images of butterflies, their movements from moments of meditative stillness to their joyful flights, gliding and fluttering, all this can inspire creative movement, words, music and other artistic endeavours. Butterflies can bring joy and inspiration. But some butterfly species are endangered through agricultural activities with the use of pesticides and herbicides. Patricia Grace's short story 'Butterflies' (see the link later in the text) alludes to some tensions in agricultural practices. Growing food with pest control on the one hand and preventing harm to butterflies and other species on the other. The butterfly story can develop an awareness of sustainable gardening and positive agricultural practices which may protect endangered species such as butterflies.

Listening and moving

- Listen to an excerpt of '*Butterfly's Day Out*' by Mark O'Connor. This excerpt is about 40 seconds in duration. The music was created by Mark O'Connor and performed with Yo-Yo Ma and Edgar Meyer. The music was released on the CD *Appalachia Waltz* in 1996. View the images of butterflies at the same time. <https://youtu.be/uzlQHwMrk-g>

- You could close your eyes and listen to the music again: Picture the way the butterfly moves through the garden. First it sits still on a flower, then it begins a joyful flight sailing and fluttering. Can you draw a butterfly? And then draw a map of the pathway of the butterfly?



- Create and practice hand movements to develop a butterfly dance.
- Have a look at this example with the recorded music and butterfly hand movements:

<https://youtu.be/4rqSJal9h0o>

Singing and saying

Two butterflies

From a poem by Emily Dickinson.
Music: Christoph Maubach © 2021

*

Two but-ter flies went out at noon and waltzed a - bove a stream, then

9
flew right through the blue blue sky and rest - ed on a beam

- Here is a link to the butterfly song with Ukulele
<https://youtu.be/fBZLnfSPcv4>
- Recite the words of the song in all sorts of different ways, e.g.: softly, louder, crescendo, decrescendo.
- Say some of the words 'in your head' as you recite the lyrics, e.g.: *Two butterflies went out at noon.... Then flew right through the blue, blue sky...*
- Sing the butterfly song.
- Sing in a round. The second voice begins on bar 3.
- Clap on the first beat of each bar and sing at the same time.
- Create other body percussion actions on the first of beat of each bar.

Story

- Patricia Grace's short story 'Butterflies' is thought provoking and fits well with our theme.
<https://chipbruce.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/butterflies.pdf>

Listen and view

- Here is the entire music of 'Butterfly's Day Out' by Mark O'Connor performed with Yo-Yo Ma and Edgar Meyer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QKhx7Lxog0>

Christoph Maubach



Christoph is currently based in Cologne as a freelance music and movement teacher. He has worked with Orff Schulwerk in Australia and New Zealand for over forty years, where he was a university lecturer and worked on many courses and creative projects. Christoph is a member of the board of the IOSFS.