

Improvisation

Part I: Chapter 17

Simple Meter—Half Note = Beat Unit; More Rhythms

Add A Rhythm

- **Process:**
 - Basic: Divide class into teams of 5-8. Using rhythm syllables, Student A chants a known two beat rhythm pattern from Part I, Chapter 17.3. Student B echoes the pattern and adds a different two beat rhythm pattern; Student C echoes the patterns chanted by Student A and B and adds a different two beat rhythm pattern; Student D echoes the patterns chanted by Student A, B and C and adds a different two beat rhythm pattern; etc.

Add A Two Beat Rhythm

- Variation I: One team improvises on a neutral syllable using the process listed above while the other team(s) writes the patterns (dictates) the patterns.
- Variation II: Integrate accents, articulations and/or dynamic into the rhythm patterns.
- **Parameters:**
 - Rhythm patterns to be selected from Part I, Chapter 17.3. The instructor designates the meter (simple-duple, triple or quadruple), physical motion (metric motion, heel march, circular hand/arm motion, and/or down-up motion) and then sets the tempo.
 - Remember to perform the patterns (a) with inflective expression (foundation of phrasing) and (b) while moving to meter, macro beat, or micro beat (facilitates understanding of rhythm).

This activity also works musical memory!

Additional Improvisation Activities

- **Call and Response**
See Chapter 2 for instructions
- **Ostinato Groove**
See Chapter 6 for instructions
- **Parameters:**
 - See the indicated chapter on the Oxford Learning Link, Improvisation-Part I for instructions.
 - Rhythm patterns to be selected from Part I, Chapter 17.3 (Subdivided Beat, Borrowed Beat, Divided Beat, Beat, Elongated Beat, Sustained Beat, etc.). The instructor designates the meter (simple-duple, triple or quadruple), physical motion (metric motion, heel march, and/or down-up motion with hands) and then sets the tempo.
 - Remember to perform the patterns (a) with inflective expression (foundation of phrasing) and (b) while moving to meter, macro beat, or micro beat (facilitates understanding of rhythm).
- **Same or Different**
See Chapter 2 for instructions
- **Anything You Can Do . . .**
See Chapter 10 for instructions
- **Pass the Pattern**
See Chapter 3 for instructions
- **Change Challenge**
See Chapter 14 for instructions

The ability to improvise is a skill that can be learned!

Improvisation promotes higher-order abilities, problem solving, decision making and choice.