

Rhythm Clapping Opener Teacher Instructions



National Standards for Music Education

- 5. Reading and notating music.
- 6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
- 7. Evaluating music and music performances.

DESE-Missouri Knowledge Standards

Goal 1

DESE-Missouri Performance Standards

1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 2.5, 3.1, 3.3, 4.4

Subject Area: Choral/Vocal classes

Grade Range: 6-12

Rhythm clapping at the beginning of a rehearsal is a great way to capture the student's interest and ensure that music reading curriculum enhanced with technology will occur daily.

Materials Needed: SmartMusic, method of projection in classroom-large TV or projector, speaker(s) to play recording of group rhythm back to classroom, SmartMusic microphone or other microphone.

Time Allowance: 2-5 minutes daily; or as desired by instructor.

Objective:

Students will actively engage in rhythm reading and clapping as a group; promoting increased rhythm reading retention individually, and as a group.

Lesson

- **Step 1: Choose a rhythm appropriate to the level of your vocal ensemble from the SmartMusic Exercises. (This could be a particular rhythm of an octavo the group is currently learning, or will be starting.)**
- **Step 2: Before class, open a rhythm from Exercises in SmartMusic, select CLAP for the instrument, and have it projected for the class to see as they enter the classroom. Set up a SmartMusic microphone at the front of the classroom and set the recording level high to pick up clapping sounds. (This works best for recording and assessment of clapping.)**
- **Step 3: As soon as students are in the classroom. Click ASSESSMENT, then RECORD on the exercise, and it will play a metronome click count-off, and the students will clap the rhythm as a group. SmartMusic will automatically save the audio recording and then give you the option of playing it back for the group; allowing them to immediately hear how well they performed the rhythm together. Next, click on ASSESSMENT again, and click on DISPLAY ASSESSMENT. The screen will display green notes as those that were performed correctly, and red for incorrect rhythms. Students receive automatic, immediate feedback on their rhythm reading. This score can be**

Lesson plans created by Laura Vaughan

SAVED, if desired, as part of “class participation/cooperative learning” set of points that all students could share; adding motivation and an incentive to do their best.

- **Step 4: If time allows, read a second rhythm, and then continue into your desired rehearsal. Simply click NEXT and SmartMusic will automatically open the next rhythm exercise.**
- **Step 5: After class or at the end of the day, notate in grade book or lesson plan book the number of the rhythm(s) exercise that was clapped. Determine whether the rhythm should be repeated or if mastery has occurred.**

Rhythm Clapping Opener Supplemental Ideas/Activities

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Assignment Suggestions

1. Teacher may want to choose to click **CURSOR** so that students will “follow” the rhythm progression visually. Additionally, by clicking on **CLICK** and choosing **CLICK ON**, will enable SmartMusic to play a metronome click during the entire exercise. Click on **TEMPO** to adapt the exercise to the level of students, either faster or slower. For adaptations for visually impaired students, the instructor can click on **PRINT** to print the rhythm exercises in advance, and enlarge them, as needed.

2. Possible starting points in the Exercises of SmartMusic rhythms are:

Level I	Simple Time 1
Level II	Simple Time 2
Level III	Simple Time 3
Level IV	Complex Time 1

Indicators of Success

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Actively interpret and clap rhythms cooperatively that are within the scope of your curriculum.
2. Analyze their rhythm accuracy with SmartMusic Assessment feature.
3. Achieve improved rhythm reading retention and progress as a group and individually.

Assessment

1. SmartMusic Assessment score achieved by entire class.

Lesson Extensions

1. Assign small groups, or individuals to clap rhythms for practice and/or assessment at a computer station or in a practice room.
2. Divide the choral group by their sections or any other division and host a “Rhythm Clapping Competition”. Determine a minimum proficiency score such as 98-100%, etc. Continue clapping rhythms in sequence as presented on SmartMusic Exercises to constitute a winning section or group. This activity could be used as an incentive or reward, or for changing the class routine. For extra credit, any student could clap as many rhythms as they desire, save their assessment, and e-mail or save their score on a classroom work station computer.