

# Teaching Rhythm with SmartMusic and Finale



## 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

1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.5, 2.7, 3.1, 3.4, 4.5

**Subject Area:** Instrumental Music

**Grade Range:** 5-12

**Materials Needed:** Finale 2003 (or later), SmartMusic, PA System

**Time Allowance:** 5 minutes daily, or as teacher desires

## Objectives:

Students will:

1. Learn, and understand rhythms based on scope and sequence
2. Learn clap and count prescribed rhythms

## Lesson

(**Hint:** Steps 1-6 are covered in Finale's "Quick Start Videos." Click 'How To'>'Creating Instant'>'Custom Exercises.')

- Step 1: Open Finale Exercise Wizard.
- Step 2: Choose a Lesson Title > click Next
- Step 3: Choose Rhythms > click Add. After you're finished, click Next.
- Step 4: Give your exercise a Title
- Step 5: Pick your Instrumentation (hint: Add **Piano** to your list).
- Step 6: Print Lesson/Warm-up for your group.
- Step 7: Open piano part from Lesson/Warm-up. Click "File>Save Special>Save as SmartMusic accompaniment."
- Step 8: Click "Full Ensemble or group">Click "OK."
- Step 9: Give your SmartMusic file a name and save to Desktop.
- Step 10: Pass out rhythm sheets and Open your newly created SmartMusic file
- Step 11: Begin by clapping and counting difficult rhythms.
- Step 12: Play along with SmartMusic

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## Assignment Suggestions

Divide each group of rhythms into different levels. There are 27 exercises within “Simple Time 1.” I would consider “Simple Time 1” as a Unit and separate the 27 exercises into 4 ‘chapters.’

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

## Indicators of Success

Students will be able to:

1. Clap, count rhythms within a sequence.
2. Recognize correct and incorrect rhythms.

## Assessment

Individual students or groups of students can be called upon to clap in class. Also, the recording feature of SmartMusic can record each student, or group. By listening to the recording, the class can discuss what rhythms were performed correctly and which were performed incorrectly, and how to fix it.

## Lesson Extensions

1. Assign individual students, groups of two, or small groups to clap a specific number of the Exercise Rhythms for practice and/or assessment.
2. Have rhythm competitions in class
3. Pick a student to teach a rhythm to another student.