

Teaching Tips

Sequential Rhythm Reading



Subject Area: Any area of music education
Grade Range: 3-12

Materials Needed: SmartMusic, method of projection in classroom-large TV or projector, speakers/PA system, SmartMusic microphone or other microphone.

- **These rhythm exercises could be done at any point in the class period; the beginning, middle, or even at the end. For those teachers whose school is on the block class system, breaking up a long rehearsal with rhythm reading can be a good activity to insert.**
- **When students SAVE individual assessments at work stations; have them save to a folder that you have already created. For example; create a folder for every class that will be saving their rhythm assessments. Then, within that folder, simply have the student save by their full name. Such as: Third Hour; Smith, Suzy. Instructor or trusted student should back up all data daily to a jump drive or any other device.**
- **Ask student volunteers who are proficient in rhythm reading to assist students who may be having difficulty. These students could tutor before or after school, during a study period, etc.**
- **Students with School Sponsored Home SmartMusic Subscriptions have the added advantage of being able to rehearse rhythm exercises often. They can record and save their assessment, and then e-mail it to their teacher.**
- **Study the scores being learned in class for areas of rhythm problems, or in pieces that the group will soon begin to learn. Ask students to analyze their literature for rhythms that could be covered. Isolate those rhythms and match them to rhythms presented in SmartMusic Exercises.**
- **For variety, try having the class clap the rhythms written for INSTRUMENTS, using some of the unique accompaniments.**

- **Make sure your microphone volume is set to a very high level to record and assess rhythm clapping. This level will be much higher than the level normally used to record your ensemble.**
- **SmartMusic automatically re-opens to the last exercise opened; so on successive days, it is easy to begin where you stopped on the previous day.**
- **A SmartMusic microphone draped over a music stand will work fine for recording and assessing rhythm clapping. (No big “set up” is needed!)**
- **A challenging variation can be for different sets of students to clap a measure, and then drop out while others continue clapping. (For example-students in the first top row claps measure 1, next row claps measure 2, etc.)**
- **Challenge students to each clap a measure individually and then drop out until it is their turn to clap again. (For example-Student 1 claps measure 1, next students claps the following measure, etc.)**
- **Divide the class in half: have one half clap a rhythm and assign the other half to “assess” the first group. Compare their analysis with SmartMusic’s assessment. Switch groups for a second rhythm.**
- **Videotape your class using SmartMusic Rhythm clapping with assessment and show it at an Open House, Parent Conferences, or Student Orientation Sessions. Parents, new students, and administrators will be impressed!**
- **Individual student assessment scores can be shown, printed, and/or played for parents at Parent Conferences.**
- **Save student assessments from early in the year and compare for the students or their parents for later in the year to show progress towards mastery of rhythms included in the curriculum.**