

Teaching Tips

Rhythm Clapping Opener



Subject Area: Any type class in music education
Grade Range: Any

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.

- **Study music being learned for rhythm problem areas, or in pieces that the group will soon begin to learn. Isolate those rhythms and match them to rhythms presented in SmartMusic Exercises.**
- **For variety, try having your class clap the rhythms written for INSTRUMENTS, using some of the unique accompaniments. (The recording feature of SmartMusic will work, but the students cannot be assessed on an exercise written for a pitched instrument while clapping.)**
- **Make sure your microphone volume is fairly high to record and assess rhythm clapping. This level is likely to be higher than the level normally used to record large ensembles. (If the level is too high or low, the assessment feature in SmartMusic may not show the exact rhythm clapped.)**
- **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 more 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 back row claps measure 1, next row claps measure 2, etc.)**
- **Instructors can challenge students to clap a set of the rhythms at increasingly faster tempos with 100% accuracy. This is a great motivator for any class!**