

We're Percussionists, Not Drummers: More Mallets in Beginning Band!

A Clinic Session Presented for the
Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic
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with the Tapp Middle School Band
Erin Cole, Director

Sponsored by Peripole-Bergerault Percussion

I. Let's add a little rhythm!

Xy - lo - phones and con - gas, the fin - est in the land. Let's
add a lit - tle rhy - thm to en - hance be - gin - ning band!

II. Introduction of rhythmic patterns

- A. Speech
- B. Body Percussion
- C. Non-pitched Percussion
- D. Mallet Percussion
- E. Band Instruments

Shakers: Cole WatchMs.
Bongos: Al - ter - nate your sticks on eighth notes, R, L, R, L, R.
Claves: Wrap your fin - gers 'round the mal - lets
Glock Conga (Djembe): Bounce your sticks (Boing!) Bounce your sticks (Boing!)

- III. Work in method book
 - A. Exercises as written for review
 - B. Exercises accompanied by mallet and non-pitched percussion
- IV. Practice improvising
 - A. Review of chant learned previously in speech (“Let’s add a little rhythm...”)
 - B. Transfer to body percussion and band instruments
 - C. Combine with exercise from method book
 - D. Perform
- V. Goals
 - A. Rehearsal Goals—Students
 - 1. To reinforce the ability to internalize a steady beat and demonstrate beat competency using speech, body percussion and non-pitched instruments.
 - 2. To gain experience with new rhythms using speech, body percussion and non-pitched instruments. (Reinforcement of pairs of 8ths introduced previously, introduction of syncopation)
 - 3. To introduce and reinforce proper mallet technique for keyboard percussion (mallet grip, bouncing the mallet, alternating sticking, pitch location, etc.).
 - 4. To give all students the opportunity to explore keyboard percussion instruments.
 - 5. To provide for multiple repetitions of exercises #45 and #50 in *Standard of Excellence* using percussion instruments to add timbral interest and to reinforce rhythmic competency.
 - 6. To assess section (or individual) performance of “For ... Only” (*Standard of Excellence* #43) while involving other students.
 - 7. To create a performance piece that provides the students with opportunities to explore improvisation.
 - B. Session Goals—Teachers
 - 1. To demonstrate ways to strengthen mallet technique in beginning band.
 - 2. To demonstrate ways to develop musicianship off the instruments that will strengthen future wind and percussion performance, allowing students with previous background in music to continue their musical skill development without waiting for their instrumental technique to “catch up.”
 - 3. To provide some ideas of how to integrate speech and percussion instruments with the playing of wind instruments to make beginning band exercises more interesting, create a rhythmic context for ensemble work and allow for multiple repetitions of short exercises while maintaining student focus.
 - 4. To demonstrate how to provide opportunities for assessment of individual progress while involving all students in class activities.
 - 5. To demonstrate ways to provide opportunities for intelligent, planned improvisation.
 - 6. To show ways to create a performance piece from skill-building exercises.

Thanks to Tapp Middle School Symphonic Band members and their director, Mrs. Erin Cole, for their participation in this clinic, and to Peripole-Bergerault and Dr. Andrew Perry for sponsorship of this clinic session and for providing the keyboard percussion instruments and drums.
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