Instrumental Technique for All Ages

MALLEYS



MOREY

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BPP-GFMM



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Grades 1-2





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Popcorn

Teach the Movement

- Use reaction training (verbal cues) to help students get a feeling of "popping" the mallets off the bars and helps show students which beats they play.
 - Using a verbal cue, have students respond instantly by walking a shape.
 - Using a verbal cue, have students freeze into a shape. (This activity gives students ideas for shapes when mirroring.)

tall - small wide - thin	old - young heavy - light	
crooked - straight	high - middle - low, etc.	
big - short Verbal Cues		

♦ Use mirror imitation.

- Partners face each other with one student the leader.
- Leader at signal (drum beat) makes shape.
- Follower at signal (temple blocks) makes same shape.
- Switch places and repeat.
- Repeat activity with follower making the opposite shape.

Transfer to Instruments

♦ Set up instruments in C Pentatonic scale.



<u>Technique Tip</u> Strike bars with a short sharp stroke, drawing the sound from the bar.

- Teacher sings song, students jump on first two "pops" of each phrase, make shape on third "pop" of each phrase freezing shape for remainder of phrase. Ask students to sing along.
- Transfer all three "pops" to any two notes on soprano and alto xylophone. Students should have the feeling that the mallets are bouncing off the bars, drawing the sound out of each bar.
- ♦ Teacher adds the BX Part.

Form Suggestion

- ♦ Introduction "Melt butter" movement (wind chimes) for an introduction.
- Sing and Play while "popping" into shapes. Jump on first two pops, freeze into shape on third pop.
- Coda Add "melted butter" (wind chimes) at end of song.



Can't Dance, Josey

Texas Folk



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Additional Verses

- Verse 2 Choose your partner and come improvise Josey.
- Verse 3 Chew my gum while I improvise Josey.
- Verse 4 Shoe string broke but I improvise Josey.
- Verse 5 Hold my mule while I improvise Josey.
- Verse 6 Crank my Ford while I improvise Josey.

Process

- For verses form two concentric circles with partners facing.
- Students take four steps forward followed by four steps back while playing this body percussion pattern.





- Swing partner once around.
- Inside circle remains in place, outside circle moves one partner to the left.
- ♦ Movement for Refrains
 - Inside circle claps questions, outside circle claps answers. Group improvisation gives students confidence to create solo improvisations.

Question
Answer

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- ♦ Add accompaniment parts reviewing mallet technique.
- Transfer questions and answers to conga, temple blocks, or unpitched instrument of choice.
- As an extension, transfer questions and answers to barred instruments set in F pentatonic. The instrument parts provide a simple accompaniment to support improvisation.



Extension

- ♦ Perform dance as a reel in two lines.
- ♦ Place Conga and Temple Blocks at head of lines.
- Head couple improvises question/answer on Conga or Temple Blocks, then moves to opposite end of line.

Conga	Temple Blocks
Х	X
Х	X
Х	X
x	X



Bile Them Cabbage Down

Traditional



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How do you introduce and develop the ability to play Orff instruments in children? In Mallets 'N More!, Gloria Fuoco-Lawson presents original songs, classic folk song arrangements, and movement activities with Orff process lesson plans and full Orff-style orchestrations for beginning, intermediate, and advanced elementary music students.

Orff Schulwerk emphasizes movement and music for children and Gloria uses movement to introduce mallet technique to the youngest students. Improvisation is another component important in the Orff method and the activities for intermediate and advanced players include many opportunities for student creativity.

From Gloria:

Children of all ages need to acquire the experiences necessary for success in the music classroom. These experiences include, speech, body percussion, movement, singing and playing instruments with improvisation included throughout.

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