

Don't Let Composition BUG you!

Convention 2008

IMEA

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Preparation

1. View the "bug" flash cards, then discuss 16th note rhythms.
2. Using the rhythm flash cards, categorize other bugs that fit under the same rhythm.
3. Listen to "Fish of the Sea" rondo from *Music for Children* CD.
4. Discuss Rondo form - ABACADA.....etc.
5. Listen as the book In the Tall, Tall Grass, is read.
6. Categorize each page under the given rhythms

In the Tall, Tall Grass

Book By: Denise Fleming

ISBN: 0-8050-3941-4



Class Composition Process

1. Choose 2 complementary rhythms from the book to serve as the ostinati accompaniments to our piece.
2. In small groups, use your "bug" rhythms and create a 4 Beat word chain.
3. As a group, decide the order of our word chains for our composition.
4. Speak each colored card two times each.
5. Perform in rondo form
6. Add the speech ostinati and perform the entire speech piece.
 - o Speak rhythmic rondo piece.
 - o Add ostinati #1 with speech.
 - o Add ostinati #2 with speech.
7. Transfer the entire piece from speech to body percussion.

Small Group Composition Process

1. Decide if the piece will be transferred to un-pitched percussion, melodic instrument, or a combination of both.
2. If transferring to melodic instruments, set up instruments in C pentatonic.
 - a. Notes to use: C D E G A (do not use B and F)

3. If transferring to un-pitched percussion, be sure to orchestrate each part use 3-4 un-pitched percussion instruments. Orchestrate so that they play alone and together.
4. You must play at least one of the ostinati as a drone accompaniment (note to use: C & G).
 - o Simple Drone, Level Drone,
 - o Pedal Tone (use C only)
 - o Single Moving Drone, or Double Moving Drone (added neighbor notes)
5. The other ostinati may be a melodic ostinati or, on un-pitched percussion for texture.

Creating Movement for a Performance Piece

1. Sing the "States of Matter Song".... To the tune of "Oh, Dear what can the Matter be?"

Oh, dear what can the matter be?
 Oh, dear what can the matter be?
 Oh, dear what can the matter be?
 Solid or liquid or gas?

Like a caterpillar to a butterfly, many things change forms.
 What is a Butterfly? How does a butterfly begin its life?
 This is a great book for movement exploration, read it aloud to your students,
 and watch as they create.....

Waiting For Wings
 Book by: Lois Ehlert
 ISBN: 0-15-202608-8

2. Share the book, Waiting for Wings.
3. Like a caterpillar to a butterfly, many things change forms. Matter can change: a solid to a liquid, liquid to solid, liquid to gas, and a gas to a liquid.
4. Perform individual exploration, begin and end to the sound cues of the finger cymbals:
 - a. Explore locomotor movements that show the liquid state of matter.
 - b. Create a frozen shape with your body to show the solid state of matter.
 - c. Explore non-locomotor movements to show the gaseous state of matter.

Movement Composition Guidelines

1. Create a movement composition to be presented in the final presentation.
2. Using locomotor, non-locomotor and frozen body shapes create a group movement composition that shows changes between each section of the piece. Be sure to follow the Rondo form, and that each A section is the same.
3. For inspiration, your group may choose a theme: Snowflake, Volcano, Jell-O, Glacier
4. Decide if you are going to play and move at the same time, or move only and be accompanied by another group.

Final Presentation

5. Perform as large group the speech composition, with all small group movement compositions.

6. Perform small group compositions with movement. Groups may play and move, or will be accompanied by another group.