

Rhythmic Success: Improving Students' Precision and Confidence

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Alfred Music
LEARN • TEACH • PLAY

***“Music and rhythm find their way into secret places of the soul.”
-Plato***

PULSE

Heartbeat of the music

RHYTHM

Pattern over the pulse

***Good rhythm cannot exist with a strong pulse.
How often do you rehearse with a metronome?
Do your students know how to effectively use a metronome?***

KEYS FOR UNDERSTANDING PULSE

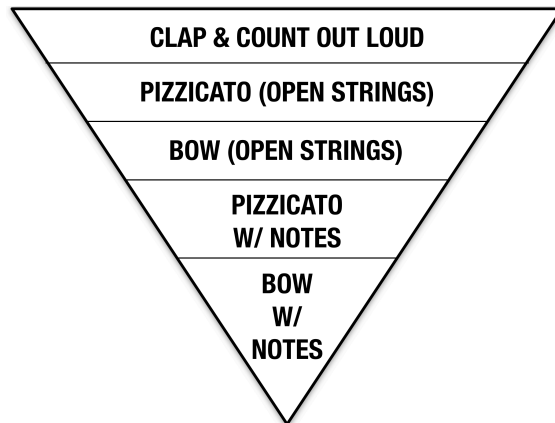
- Keep it steady
- Know the subdivision
- Demonstrate with others
- Transfer to various speeds
- Focus on the pulse – know how the rhythm fits into it

PULSE EXERCISES

- Become an orchestra army
- Drum loops
 - Beatbox (channel your inner *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*)
- *Drum Machine 1* app
- *Drum Beats + Rhythm Machine* app
- Subdivide with a metronome
 - Requirement to earn bowing license
- Internalize the pulse
 - No visual cues
 - Clap on a predetermined beat
 - Use various tempos
 - Add breathing
- Pulse *Survivor*
- “Say My Name”
- Rhythm charts
 - Use a metronome

RHYTHM EXERCISES

- Have a counting system
- Connect warm-ups to your method book
- Rhythm cards
- Rhythm Bingo
- Bell work & exit tickets
 - Make it a competition (e.g. Connect Four, Tic-Tac-Toe, Bracket Challenge)
- Rhythm Construction
 - Students create the flashcards
 - Students compose the measures
 - Increase the difficulty



- Émile
 - go.osu.edu/emile
 - Teaches students to memorize and recognize patterns in a limited amount of time
 - Full customizable for your students' needs
 - Free
- Sight-Reading Builder
 - New component of SmartMusic
 - Includes pre-set difficulty levels
 - Full customizable for your students' needs (e.g. instrumentation, time signature, key signature, accidentals, rhythm patterns, note range, intervals, dynamics, articulations, & slurs)
 - Unlimited exercises that are autogenerated
 - Teacher subscription is \$40 per year

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES

- Use a metronome (simple...but we don't do it enough)
- Vary the tempo
- Change your count-off method
 - Teacher counts, students count, students internalize, & students play
- Shadow Bow (great for young students)
- Subdivide everything into 8th or 16th notes (slowly decrease number of players)
- Vary what they play
 - Count internally
 - Only play on specific beats
 - Play entire beats / Alternate who plays