

Practice Makes Perfect!

In the August 2013 issue of NAFME's Teaching Music, Mac Randall writes an article on the future of music standards: "The NCASS, a coalition of nine national arts and education organizations (including NAFME), is in the process of creating new arts standards that will be aligned with P21's arts skills map and the Common Core math and English Standards". Here is a lesson that meets one of those standards!

(Click here: <http://noteknacks.com/resources/state-standards/> to get ahead of the game and see how Note Knacks curriculum is currently aligned with Common Core language arts and math standards!)

We know that practice makes perfect, but it isn't always fun! Here is way to have your students practice a rhythm over and over without it being mundane!

NCCAS Standard: "For instrumental study: begin to develop practice strategies that work to build skills and confidence."

OBJECTIVE

- Students will practice rhythms in a way that is meaningful and fun.

MATERIALS

- Paper
- Pencils
- (Note Knacks Full Classroom Set)

METHODS

1. Have kids get into small groups
2. Have each student create a 4/4 rhythm (using Note Knacks)
3. Come back as a group and sit in a circle
4. Explain the definition of an ostinato
5. Explain that each student will play their rhythm as an ostinato, but that we will build on each.
6. Student 1 starts his/ her ostinato. Student 2 joins in after student 1 plays his/ her rhythm once through. Student 3 joins in after student 2 plays his/ her rhythm through once. And so on. When all of the students have joined in, each student will be playing their rhythm repeatedly. The key is to make sure that each student is on beat 1 of their measure at the same time.
7. (You can have kids come in after 2 repetitions of their measure, if you would like.)
8. After this is played correctly a few times, you can eliminate the ostinato method and have each student play one right after another consecutively. Student 1's rhythm will be measure 1. Student 2's rhythm will be measure 2 and so on.
9. Students can add instruments to this at any point.

ASSESSMENT

- Did students play their rhythm correctly?
- Was each student on beat 1 of their rhythm at the same time when they were playing their ostinati?
- Did students come in at the correct time when they played their rhythms consecutively?