

## Improvisation

### Part I: Chapter 13

#### More Terms and Symbols

**Table of Truth:**

- **Process:**
  - Working in pairs or groups of four, students are designated as A and B or A, B, C and D. Each student uses their right-hand finger tips to tap the beat into the palm of their neighbors left hand. The instructor or group leader designates specific beat functions (sustained beats, elongated beats, beat, beat division, beat subdivision, borrowed beat division) to each student. For example: Student A taps beat division; Student B taps elongated/tied beats; and Student C taps beat subdivision. The instructor then changes the beat function assignments, rotating the various functions between the students.

Practice *Table of Truth* in both simple and compound meters. See table below for relationships of beat functions in each meter and visit Oxford Learning Link for videos.

*The goal is to silently maintain the beat and beat function, and match the ictus or downbeat.*

SIMPLE METER				BEAT FUNCTION	COMPOUND METER					
Beat 1		Beat 2			Beat 1		Beat 2			
ta		ah		ELONGATED BEAT	ta		ah			
ta		ta		BEAT	ta		ta			
ta	di	ta	di	DIVIDED BEAT	ta	ki	du	ta	ki	du
ta	ka	di	mi	SUBDIVIDED BEAT	ta	va	ki	di	du	mu
ta	ki	du		BORROWED BEAT DIVISION	ta	di		ta	di	

- Variation I: After all of the students have been given a specific beat function, students are instructed to “switch” to the beat function that the neighbor is tapping into their left-hand palm. With each command to “switch” each student taps the beat function the neighbor is tapping in their left-hand. [Video is available on Oxford Learning Link.]
- Variation II: Instead of tapping the right hand into the neighbors left hand palm; students reverse directions and tap with their left hand into the right palm of their neighbor. [Video is available on Oxford Learning Link.]
- Variation III: Add specific rhythm patterns (syncopation, dotted patterns, etc.) into the mix of beat functions; the group may be enlarged to 6-8 participants.
- Variation IV: One student is instructed to tap the rhythm to a known rote song while each of the remaining students are assigned one of the beat functions. At the end of each of the song’s phrases, students should switch to the element being tapped into their palm. The song can be sung on a neutral syllable or audiated.

<i>Improvisation Activities</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Call and Response</b> See Chapter 2 for instructions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Add A Rhythm</b> See Chapter 2 for instructions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Same or Different</b> See Chapter 2 for instructions</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Pass the Pattern</b> See Chapter 3 for instructions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ostinato Groove</b> See Chapter 6 for instructions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Anything You Can Do . . .</b> See Chapter 10 for instructions</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Parameters:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See the indicated chapter on the Oxford Learning Link, Improvisation-Part I for instructions of the activities listed above.</li><li>• Rhythm patterns to be selected from Part I, Chapter 1-12 (Subdivided Beat, Borrowed Beat, Divided Beat, Beat, Elongated Beat, Sustained Beat, etc.). The instructor designates the meter (simple/compound: duple, triple or quadruple), physical motion (metric motion, heel march, and/or down-up/down-up-up motion with hands) and then sets the tempo.</li><li>• Remember to perform the patterns (a) with inflective expression (foundation of phrasing) and (b) while moving to meter, macro beat, or micro beat (facilitates understanding of rhythm).</li><li>• Individually practice all of the improvisation activities except <i>Add A Rhythm</i> using the MP3 rhythm files found in Part I, Chapters 1-12, located on the Oxford Learning Link.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>The ability to improvise is a skill that can be learned!</i></p>		
<b><i>Improvisation develops self-efficacy (efficiency and ability).</i></b>		