Carol J. Krueger, DMA

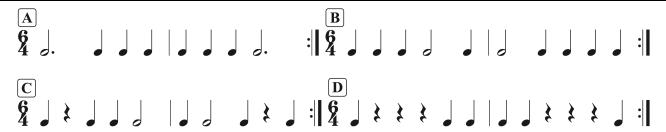## Improvisation

Part I: Chapter 8
Compound Meter—Dotted Half Note = Beat Unit; Divided Beat

Ostinato Groove
- **Process:**
  - Divide class into teams of 5-8.
  - Using rhythm syllables from Part I, Chapter 8.3, student A chants a repeated rhythm pattern in time (ostinato); the ostinato must stay the same throughout the grove.
  - Student B adds a second ostinato chant in response to Student A's ostinato.
  - One at a time, the other students on the team enter in the same way, until all the members of the team are each chanting their repeated patterns.

Ostinato Groove

The goal is to develop spontaneous, rapid, automatic reaction to what is heard.

- Variation I: Each member of a team improvises their own ostinato on a neutral syllable while the other team(s) writes (dictates) each ostinato pattern.
- Variation II: Integrate accents, articulations and/or dynamics.
- Variation III: One team sings a known rote song while another team improvises individual ostinatos in the same meter as the rote song.
- **Parameters:**
  - The ostinato pattern must be selected from the patterns in Part I, Chapter 8.3. The instructor or team leader designates length of patterns (1-2 measures), the meter (compound-duple, triple or quadruple), physical motion (metric motion, heel march, down–up-up motion with hands/arms) and then sets the tempo.

Additional Improvisation Activities

- **Call and Response** • **Add A Rhythm** • **Same or Different** • **Pass the Pattern**
- **Parameters:**
  - See Oxford Learning Link, Improvisation-Part I, Chapter 5 for instructions for above improvisation activities.
  - Rhythm patterns to be selected from Part I, Chapter 8.3 (Divided Beat, Beat, Elongated Beat, Sustained Beat, etc.). The instructor designates the meter (compound-duple, triple or quadruple), physical motion (metric motion, heel march, and/or down-up-up motion with hands) and then sets the tempo.
  - 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).
    Remember that one of the primary goals is to create interesting and musical rhythms.

Improvisation involves collaboration and the development of social skills.