

## Improvisation

### Part I: Chapter 21

Compound Meter—Dotted Eighth Note = Beat Unit; More Rhythms

#### Add A Rhythm

- **Process:**
  - Divide class into teams of 5-8. Using rhythm syllables, Student A chants a known one beat rhythm pattern from Part I, Chapter 21.3. Student B echoes the pattern and adds a different one beat rhythm pattern; Student C echoes the patterns chanted by Student A and B and adds a different one beat rhythm pattern; Student D echoes the patterns chanted by Student A, B and C and adds a different one beat rhythm pattern; etc.

#### Add A One Beat Rhythm

The image displays seven rhythmic patterns, labeled A through G, in 3/16 time. Each pattern is written on a staff with a 3/16 time signature. The patterns are as follows:

- A:** Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note.
- B:** Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note.
- C:** Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note.
- D:** Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note.
- E:** Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note.
- F:** Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note.
- G:** Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note.

- Variation I: One team improvises on a neutral syllable using the process listed above while the other team(s) writes the patterns (dictates) the patterns.
- Variation II: Integrate accents, articulations and/or dynamic into the rhythm patterns.
- **Parameters:**
  - Rhythm patterns to be selected from Part I, Chapter 21.3. The instructor designates the compound meter, physical motion (metric motion, heel march, circular hand/arm motion, and/or down-up-up motion) 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).

*This activity also works musical memory!*

*Additional Improvisation Activities*

- **Call and Response**  
See Chapter 2 for instructions
- **Pass the Pattern**  
See Chapter 3 for instructions
- **Change Challenge**  
See Chapter 14 for instructions
- **Parameters:**
  - See the indicated chapter on the Oxford Learning Link, Improvisation-Part I for instructions.
  - Rhythm patterns to be selected from Part I, Chapter 21.3 (Subdivided Beat, Borrowed Beat, 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).
- **Same or Different**  
See Chapter 2 for instructions
- **Ostinato Groove**  
See Chapter 6 for instructions
- **Table of Truth**  
See Chapters 4 & 13 for instructions
- **Add A Rhythm**  
See Chapter 2 for instructions
- **Anything You Can Do . . .**  
See Chapter 10 for instructions

*The ability to improvise is a skill that can be learned!*

***Improvisation involves collaboration and the development of social skills.***