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Body Percussion/Untuned Percussion Lesson (Part 2)
by Roger Sams

PATHWAY TO Part work: Performing the piece in a round

- Review the BP pieces from the previous music class.

BP/UTP #1

Roger Sams

clap
pat



clap
pat

clap
pat

clap
pat

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- When the students are secure, divide the class in half and perform in canon at four beats. Trade parts, so that all students have an opportunity to be in the, more challenging, second group.

PATHWAY TO UTP (Untuned Percussion): Transfer to hand drum and rhythm sticks

TEACHER TALK: When to teach down and up strokes on hand drum

When you begin playing hand drum with students, they all play with their finger tips on the lower portion of the drum. In third or fourth grade they will be ready for more rigorous hand drum technique. This piece is perfect for introducing or practicing down and up strokes on the hand drum.

- Perform the BP piece, saying “down” every time you pat and “up” every time you clap.
- Practice down up and up strokes, literally on the hand. The students hold their non-dominant hand as if it is the drum and practice down strokes with the thumb on the lower third of the drum and up strokes with the middle two fingers on the upper third of the drum. Students say “down” and “up” as they practice on their bodies
- Transfer to hand drums. First time the students say “down” and “up” and then they internalize the words.

TEACHER TALK: Rhythm sticks on the floor or table

Playing the floor or a table with rhythm sticks is a pleasing, low-cost, two-hand percussion option.

- Transfer the piece to rhythm sticks. The pat gets played on the floor or the table and the clap is a click of the two sticks.
- When the students are secure on both hand drum and rhythm sticks, they perform the piece in a round, highlighting the contrasting timbre between the sticks and the drums.

PATHWAY TO Literacy: Notating the piece

- After the students know the piece very well, have them notate the rhythms for the a phrase and then the b phrase.
- Ask them to perform the piece in a a b a form while reading their notation and saying rhythm syllables.