

Intercultural Music: Exercise 1 (After January Workshop)

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Intercultural Music Workshop Series 2024

For all exercises – do not continue to harder concepts or exercises until most, if not all the class understands and can play the current exercise or concept. All these exercises can be completed with body percussion (clapping/stomping/anything for different sounds) or your own percussion. Avoid pitched/melodic instruments (e.g. glockenspiels).

1. Using the sheet [Split Rhythms Exercise 1](#) featuring rhythms used in the workshops in January, have all the class learn Rhythm 1 and Rhythm 2 (audio examples provided). Split the students into 2 groups and give each group a different rhythm.
2. Repeat the above task for Rhythm 3 and Rhythm 4.
3. Introduce the “Stop Break” that was used in the workshops – stop for 1 bar (a single count of 1, 2, 3, 4 in time) and have the students start playing again after the stop on beat 1 together. Try with both pairs of rhythms. Students could be encouraged to whisper “1, 2, 3, 4” quietly to help keep time.
4. Play the Call and Response game that we played during the workshops in January – 1 student plays (“Calls”) a rhythm (emphasise that simple is better than complicated.) and the rest respond with the same rhythm back. After 3-4 tries, change the “Caller”. Everyone can do this, even if they simply play one of the rhythms they’ve learned or a hit on each beat.

Note: students may find these extensions difficult, so keep positive – even just completing the first with the class is impressive!

5. **Extension 1:** Combine the stop break and Call and Response game; before starting select students to be soloists, and which order they will be (solo – 1 at a time). Play the Split Rhythms as in task 1 or 2 and call a stop break, but the soloist can play whatever rhythm they like. Students could still whisper 1, 2, 3, 4 behind the solo happening so they know where to start playing again.
6. **Extension 2:** Split the students into 3 groups using Rhythm 1, 2 and 3. Repeat the previous tasks.
7. **Extension 3:** Split the students into 4 groups – each rhythm should now be played at the same time. Repeat previous tasks.

If the students can all successfully complete all 7 tasks, they have done very well. [Split Rhythm Starter Sheet](#) features more rhythms, and the exercise speed can be changed to make each play interesting. You may find that students struggle more with playing slower than playing faster!