

Percussion Class Syllabus

Course Title: Making Beats with Your Hands and Feet

Instructor: Coach Prince

Course Description:

In this weekly 9 week class, students will engage in exploration of rhythm, beats, and percussion instruments. Through hands-on activities, games, and ensemble playing, students will develop rhythmic skills, coordination, and musical creativity. This course aims to foster a love for music and percussion while providing a fun and supportive learning environment.

Course Objectives:

- To introduce students to basic rhythmic concepts and techniques.
- To develop fundamental percussion skills such as hand coordination and timing.
- To explore a variety of percussion instruments including drums, shakers, and hand percussion.
- To encourage creativity and musical expression through ensemble playing and improvisation.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Percussion

- Icebreaker activities to get to know each other
- Introduction to different percussion instruments (drums, shakers, tambourines, etc.)
- Basic rhythm exercises and counting practice
- Introduction to drumming techniques: hand positions, strokes, and drum sounds

Week 2: Continuing with Percussion Basics

- Review of basic rhythm exercises and techniques
- Further exploration of drumming techniques: dynamics, accents, and rhythms
- Group drumming ensemble practice focusing on simple rhythmic patterns
- Introduction to rhythmic notation (optional, depending on age and skill level)

Week 3: Exploring Hand Percussion

- Introduction to hand percussion instruments such as shakers, tambourines, and claves
- Practice basic rhythms and patterns on hand percussion instruments
- Rhythmic patterns and improvisation exercises
- Ensemble playing with hand percussion instruments

Week 4: Building on Hand Percussion Skills

- Review of hand percussion techniques and rhythms
- Introduction to more complex hand percussion patterns
- Group improvisation exercises with hand percussion instruments

Week 5: Advanced Drumming Techniques

- Introduction to advanced drumming techniques: rolls, accents, and fills
- Practice advanced drumming exercises focusing on coordination and control
- Group drumming ensemble practice incorporating advanced techniques

Week 6: Developing Ensemble Playing

- Focus on playing together as a group with cohesion and musicality
- Practice ensemble pieces with various percussion instruments
- Introduction to dynamics and expression in ensemble playing

Week 7: Rhythmic Challenges

- Introduction to challenging rhythm exercises and coordination drills
- Practice polyrhythms and syncopated rhythms
- Group improvisation sessions focusing on complex rhythmic structures

Week 8: Creative Expression Through Percussion

- Exploration of improvisational techniques and strategies
- Group improvisation exercises with a focus on creativity and musical expression
- Encouragement of individual expression and experimentation

Week 9: Student Showcase

- Review of course materials and skills learned
- Group rehearsal for final performance
- Final ensemble performance for friends and family, showcasing the students' progress and achievements

Materials Required:

- Various percussion instruments (drums, shakers, tambourines, claves, etc.) will be provided
- Drumsticks, mallets, or other percussion accessories will be provided
- Comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes must be worn (no sandals, clogs, or flip flops)

Assessment:

- Participation in activities and ensemble playing
- Demonstration of rhythmic skills and techniques
- Engagement and effort in group exercises and performances

Note: This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs and interests of the students and the availability of resources.