

Roland Classroom Activity: HP201 Piano

Lesson: Steady Beat

Concepts: Downbeats, Finding the Pulse, Counting a Steady Beat

Grades: K-6, 20 minutes

Preparation:

Three SONG files:

#26: *Radetsky March*

#41: *Humoreske*

#65: *Fly Free*

National Standards Met:

Standard 2: Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

Students drum the pulse in a variety of music styles.

Standard 6: Listening to, analyzing, and describing music

Students listen to music files, find the pulse, then play

Detailed Lesson Plan:

1. Tell students they will be finding the PULSE in different music.
2. Play *Radetsky March*. Students walk, wave, stomp, clap to the music. Choose a *gross motor* activity.
3. As students move, begin counting a steady beat “1 2 3 4” or “1 2 3”. Ask students to count with you.
4. As the music plays, begin counting “ONE” with a louder voice, slowly eliminating the remaining beats.
5. Tell students that beat ONE, the strongest beat, is the DOWNBEAT. “We will be drumming DOWNBEATS ONLY on your piano”
6. Instrument Options for remainder of lesson:

HP201, any tone selected	Rhythm Sticks
Drum Sticks	Hands tapping on legs
7. Play *Radetsky March*. Students play/drum on DOWNBEAT ONLY.
8. Play *Humoreske*. Listen together.
9. Discuss the difference between pieces. Is this one faster? Slower? Students count with you, tapping the downbeat, accentuating ONE as they count.
10. Play *Fly Free*. Listen together and discuss rhythm differences.
11. Students play/drum a steady beat, accenting the downbeat.