

PERCUSSION PARADE

ARIZONA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION, 2025

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Kids love percussion instruments, and you'll love these lessons that utilize Hoop Groups to provide non-pitched percussion and hand drum experiences. Our focus will be on the building blocks of music, including beat, rhythm, form and phrasing.

1. Hoop Groups: Play Percussion, a Parody of Alouette

Source: *Woods, Metals, Shakers, Skins!* Book by Almeida

Focus: *Timbre, Form, Note Values*

Set up Hoop Groups in this order: Woods/Metals/Shakers/Skins.

I display the lyrics sheet for student viewing while I teach the song, and it helps if the children have previously learned *Alouette*. Analyze the Lyrics Sheet drawing attention to (1) the Refrain - which is sung and played by all, (2) the cumulative Call & Response sections for the individual timbres, (3) the four-beat roll at the end of each verse on "Oh . . .". Conduct a *rallentando* and a rolled note at end.

2. Hoop Groups: I-M-P-R-O-V-I-S-E!

Source: *Woods, Metals, Shakers, Skins!* Book by Almeida

Focus: *Timbre, Improvisation*

Set up Hoop Groups in this order: Metals/Woods/Shakers/Skins.

The melody of this fun improvisation activity is the **Military Cadence** or **Cadence Call** (the call & response melody sung acapella by military personnel when marching or running). I have printed it in the score for you, but I teach this piece to the children with following along with the lyrics, rather than displaying the score. Analyze the piece, discuss the components of a musically interesting improvisation, seat students at the Hoop Group Stations and begin. Finish the song with a "round" of instrument applause (playing a roll while moving the instruments in a vertical circle in front of you). Consider rotating the students to the next hoop station and repeating the activity.

3. Hoop Groups: Hungarian Dance #5 (Johannes Brahms)

Source: *Woods, Metals, Shakers, Skins!* Book by Almeida

Focus: *Timbre, Form, Note Values*

Materials: Recording of Hungarian Dance #5, visual, non-pitched percussion instruments, four hula hoops for station organizers, a pointing device. Refer to the PDF of visuals for a detailed lesson plan.

Set up Hoop Groups in this order: Woods/Metals/Shakers/Skins. Students love the challenge of this exciting piece and its blistering pace!

4. Rocky Mountain: Hand Drum Note Value Game (American Folk Song)

Source: *Percussion Parade* Book by Almeida

Focus: *Note Values, Rondo Form, A Truism: A Science of Sound truism: "Size determines pitch."*

Materials: This lesson can be done with large drums that stand on the floor: Tubanos, Congas, etc. or hand drums played horizontally with a mallet or played by hand.

Process: It is best to prep this lesson a week before adding the drums. Teach students the **A Section** pattern, showing the direction with hand levels. Discuss the four note values to be reviewed (whole, half, quarter, eighths). Clap whole notes while singing the A section. Ask students how many occurred. Repeat with the other three note values. Perform entire song with clapping game: Pat the value on your own lap, move one leg to the right, then your own lap again, then one leg to the left. **(Continued on next page)**

Artie was an adjunct professor of music education at the University of Central Florida for 34 years, the saxophone instructor at Valencia State College, the Music & Movement instructor at Seminole State College and a saxophone performer and teacher. Additionally, she performs early music with Ars Antiqua and the Halifax Consort.