

# NYSSMA MUSIC VIEWS

Standards-Based Teaching & Learning Across the State



## Lesson Plan for NYSSMA Music Views

**Name:** Donna Basile

**Title:** Freaky Fipples: Non-conventional Recorder Lesson

### Level

- Elementary
- Middle School
- High School

### Content Area

- Band
- Chorus
- Classroom
- Orchestra

### Objective

Students will create a recorder composition in rondo form using the instrument in conventional and non-conventional ways.

**The NYS Learning Standard(s)** this lesson will address...

- Creating, Performing and Participating in the Arts
- Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources
- Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art
- Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts

**National Standards for Music Education** this lesson...

- Singing – alone and with others – a varied repertoire of music
- Performing on instruments – alone and with others – a varied repertoire of music
  - Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments
- Composing and arranging music within specific guidelines
  - Reading and notating music
- Listening to, analyzing and describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances
  - Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
  - Understanding music in relation to history and culture

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## Instructional Ideas

1. Listen to the recording of The Banshee by Henry Cowell. Students name the instrument used and discuss how the piano was used in a non-traditional way.
2. Students explore non-traditional ways to play a hand drum.
3. Students create hand drum sounds to match each of the following graphic designs: zigzag/ spiral/ random dots/ starburst.
4. Divide class into 6 groups. Each group will create a recorder sound for 3 or 4 of the designs playing the recorder in traditional or non-traditional ways. They will turn the sounds into a rondo.
5. Each group performs their rondo. The class assesses whether the composition was in rondo form and names something that they liked about the composition.
6. Final performance: the 6 rondos are performed between the stanza of the poem "Freaky Fipples."

## Assessment

Understanding of rondo form will be assessed through the performance of their composition.

## References/Resources

- Recording of The Banshee by Henry Cowell
- Other materials: recorders, hand drum, directions and graphic designs on the board, worksheets, pencils.
- Manhattanville Lessons

## Notes

On the board write the following:

1. Select 3 or 4 designs.
2. Create a sound for each and write it down.
3. Turn the designs and sounds into a rondo.
4. Practice.

Use the following poem for the final performance:

### Freaky Fipples:

What is that sound I hear from above?  
Is it a sparrow or is it a dove?

What is that sound? What do I hear?  
A recorder in the attic, that's what I fear.

What is that sound I hear from below?  
Is it a raven, perhaps it's a crow?

Is someone in the cellar tied with a noose?  
Or just a recorder out on the loose?

What is that sound I hear from without?  
Is there a goblin lurking about?

Is there a cat stuck in a tree?  
My neighbor and his recorder are all that I see.

All of these sounds strange and fun, made by a recorder each and every one.

Freaky Fipples original poem by Donna Basile – permission for classroom use provided by the author.