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

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 without?  
Is there a goblin luring about?

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