

# NYSSMA MUSIC VIEWS

Standards-Based Teaching & Learning Across the State



## Lesson Plan for NYSSMA Music Views

**Name:** Ellis B. Holmes III

**Title:** Beginning Steel Drums

### Level

- Elementary
- Middle School
- High School

### Content Area

- Band
- Chorus
- Classroom
- Orchestra

### Objective

To introduce students to the steel drum and get them to play a portion of a simple melody of a jazz composition without written notation.

**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**

It is imperative to get the best sound out of each drum. This means employing the proper technique to play each note or tone.

The sticks (about 6" long, are held like regular drumsticks using a matched-grip. They should bounce off the notes. Students should play the left side of the drum with the left stick and the right side with the right stick to gain as much facility as possible. Students should play their drum by alternating both sticks using wrist action.

Have the students find each desired note and play them separately. Then add each other desired note one by one until they've played the desired section of the melody.

## **Assessment**

Students will be able to play a portion of a jazz melody on the steel drum with 100% accuracy (or as close to). This will help build the discipline, dexterity, and confidence that is needed to be as spontaneous as a player of conventional instruments.

## **References/Resources**

- Jazz Composition: "St. Thomas" by Sonny Rollins;
- Beginning Steel Drum by Othello Molineaux