


















Visual Musical Minds - rhythm videos

Learning Area Study: The Arts (music)

Find it on [Youtube](#)

Visual Musical Minds' rhythm videos

These are a collection of videos that teach learners to read and clap along to rhythmic notation in real time, with little direct instruction necessary. They are sequenced in a bootstrapped manner where new content is included with each video.

1		Introduction to Rhythm Reading: Stage One Visual Musical Minds	9		Syncopation ~Papaya Edition~ Visual Musical Minds
2		Introduction to Rhythm Reading: Stage Two Visual Musical Minds	10		A Guide to Rhythm Reading: Intermediate Rhythms Part 1... Visual Musical Minds
3		Introduction to Rhythm Reading: Stage Three Visual Musical Minds	11		A Guide to Rhythm Reading: Intermediate Rhythms Part 2... Visual Musical Minds
4		Introduction to Rhythm Reading: Bonus Reading:... Visual Musical Minds	12		A Guide to Rhythm Reading: Intermediate Rhythms Part 3... Visual Musical Minds
5		Rhythm Reading Comparison: 4/4 versus 3/4 ~Easy Edition~ Visual Musical Minds	13		Rhythm Reading in Six-Eight Visual Musical Minds
6		Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy Rhythm Challenge Visual Musical Minds	14		The Rhythm Challenge Visual Musical Minds
7		Rhythm Reading in 3/4 Time Visual Musical Minds	15		Passacaglia for Harp and Rhythm Sticks by ~Visual... Visual Musical Minds
8		Rhythm Reading: Minuet in G Visual Musical Minds	16		Rhythm Builder #1: Drum, Cow Bell, Maraca, Claves, Guiro Visual Musical Minds
			17		Beat of the Day: Unity by the Fat Rat Visual Musical Minds

Potential uses for learning in music, and other subject areas

They serve as engaging game-like activities, that focus on actually making music and work effectively with whole class participation. These could serve as the entire curriculum for studying rhythmic notation. They are easily inserted at the beginning of a music (or any subject) lesson for 5-10 minutes and sufficiently teach rhythm reading for any age from 3 up to and including adulthood. I have had recent success with these in a combined 3-6 year old music class.

The enthusiasm created could also be leveraged for a deeper study into rhythms, breaking them down, and teaching many parts for the mathematics curriculum at many year levels (particularly patterns and fractions)

Reading of the words below (mostly ti and ta) are very simple words, effective for building phonic recognition speed in literacy

Critique

Differentiation and Engagement:

The videos themselves are remarkably self differentiating. As each rhythm repeats 4 times, students who are unable to sight read the level effectively are scaffolded by repeated listenings, and most are usually successful by the fourth repeat. The extending students focus on developing a higher degree of accuracy, and reading of the notation (playing successfully the first time) rather than reliance on aural ability.

Visually impaired students are able to experience the rhythm on the first play through and attempt to copy on the repeats.

These videos are often very engaging and may assist with engagement. Particularly for students with ASD or ADHD.

Critique

Agency

Students are able to decide as a group when they will move up a level. They may also use these individually and attempt any level at will, taking control of their learning.

Wellbeing

Making music is often linked to positive effects on wellbeing (Krauss, 2022), especially those that focus on participatory music over performance focused (MacGregor, 2020).

Critique

Criticisms

The series loses structural coherence after around 12 videos

No new content has been added in years

Complex rhythms are introduced very quickly at the 10th and 11th video

There are plenty of more complex rhythms that could be addressed. The video series could easily be twice as long

Being a video, braille versions of the rhythms are not available. Although in my experience, these are rare, easy to create, and seldom useful, as visually impaired learners tend to do better when focusing on their aural abilities.

References

Kraus, N. (2022, January 6). *Music is the Jackpot: Nina Kraus "Of Sound Mind: How Our Brain Constructs a Meaningful Sonic World"* [Video]. ArtSpeaks. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzDjn7XDbcQ>

MacGregor, E. (2020). Participatory performance in the secondary music classroom and the paradox of belonging. *Music Education Research*, 22(1), 229-241.

Visual Musical Minds. (2018). Rhythm Reading Videos [Video series]. YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vZ5mlfZlgk&list=PLzPP1Evz0WkRAkDUUT-KvVs1CbRbgtdyu>