

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

ELEMENTS OF MUSIC

In Orff Schulwerk, participants are introduced to the basic elements of music, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre, texture, and dynamics through developmental exercises in speech, singing, movement, and playing instruments. Students are led to conscious awareness and understanding of an element only after they are familiar and comfortable with using it in music making. Then the teacher may proceed with reading and writing of notation, thus facilitating the transition to music literacy.

Students in teacher training courses should build a conscious awareness of how this sequence occurs in Orff Schulwerk and become competent in the procedures needed for applying it in their own classrooms. The following material provides a frame of reference for developing these competencies. The order presented here may guide teacher training content but is not intended as an outline for classroom curriculum.

Rhythm

In the Orff Schulwerk approach, rhythm is considered the foundation of dance and music making, with acknowledgment of the rhythm of spoken language as its source. Beginning experiences are designed to awaken the natural human rhythmic sense and to reinforce and use it as a primary component in expanding musical ability. Rhythmic sensitivity and skills are developed within the framework basic to Western musical tradition, including steady beat, metric groupings, and duration patterns in a variety of phrase formations and combinations.

1. Beat

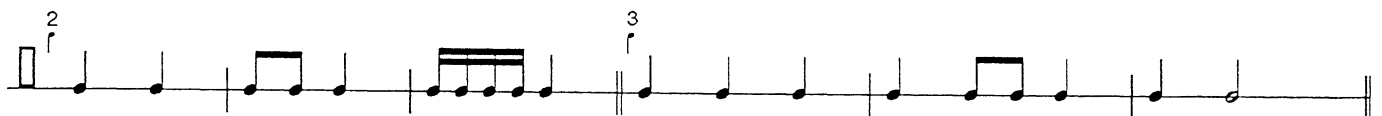
- a. steady beat
- b. variable: changing through variations in tempo, both gradual and abrupt

2. Meter

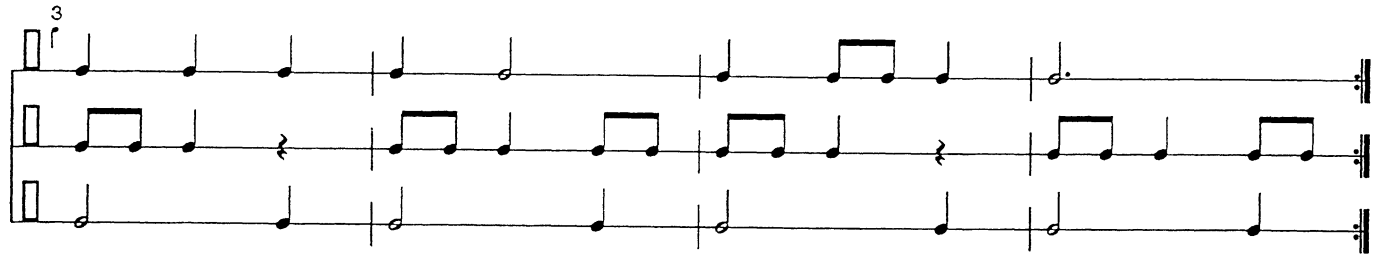
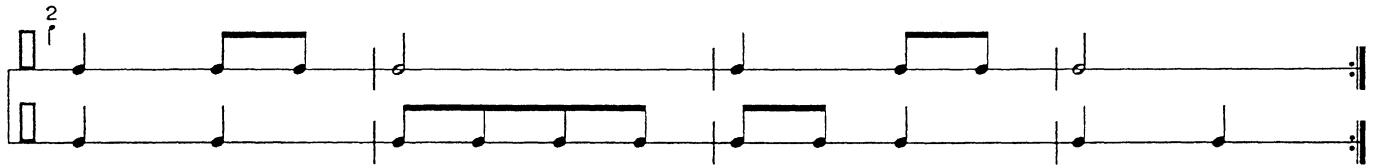
- a. accented beats
- b. commonly used regular groupings: duple (2/4, 6/8), triple (3/4), and quadruple (4/4), plus others as appropriate

3. Rhythm development

- a. divided beat in duple and triple meters



c. layered rhythmic ostinato



d. rhythmic canon

e. augmentation and diminution

f. retrograde

5. Other rhythmic groupings

a. 5/4 and 7/8

Murray II, p. 91; Murray V, p. 95; American Edition 3, p. 217

b. regular changing meters



c. irregular changing meters

