

45 Rhythm Tips for Maturing Beginners

Must teach: Eighth, quarter, half, dotted-half, whole notes & FOOT TAP

Next:

Dotted quarter/eighth

Straight sixteenths - shows them the beat can be divided by more than 2

Syncopation - must tap foot

Then as time allows:

Eighth/sixteenth combinations

6/8 time with compound foot tap (just try it! - article in shownotes)

#1 Rhythmic Dictation

Dictate 1-8 beats at a time (more is tougher)

For “uneven” rhythms, do 2 beats if needed and ask questions

Students can also compose rhythms

#2 Counting Outside the Box

Count down the page or up the page (m. 1,5,9,13 or 13,9,5,1)

Count backwards (m. 8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1)

Students change from 4/4 to 3/4 to 2/4 easily

Play rhythm relay - student A counts m.1, student B m.2, etc without stops

Article in show notes

#3 Rhythm Envelope Game

Give them 8 cards with different 4-8 beat rhythms

You count, they choose correct card

Article in show notes

#4 Change up other games (Episode 44) to use all rhythm

#5 Conducting - Start thinking in full measures and feel 4/4 vs. 3/4

#6 Mixed meter - for fun with older students