College Lesson Plan

Objective

The students will broaden their concept of feeling meters in a manner that is not typical to Western Music (i.e. quarter note groupings) by clapping and accenting in 7/4 using the 232322 eighth note subdivision grouping.

Purpose

- *To broaden the student's perception of meters, especially of odd meters, by introducing the concept that meters can be felt not only by accenting various quarter note groupings, but by accenting various eighth note groupings as well.*
- *To build the foundation for the concept that meters can be felt and interpreted by accenting various groupings that are subdivisions and extensions of the quarter note.*
- *To lay the ground work for applying this concept to composition and improvisation.*

Materials Needed

- *A computer lab that provides each student with a computer or one class computer with a LCD projector.*
- *Computer software – **Finale** for students to compose (see Closure) and **Microsoft Word** for teacher to create handout (see step 7 in Procedure).*
- *A recording of "Take 5" by Dave Brubeck.*

Anticipatory Set

Play the recording of "Take 5" as the students enter class.

Procedure

1. *Begin instruction by having the students listen to a few minutes of "Take 5" and to determine what meter the song is in.*
2. *Explain that typically in Western Music, odd meters are felt as a large grouping followed by a small grouping (i.e. In "Take 5" the 5/4 is felt as a grouping of 3 followed by a grouping of 2, and not as a group of 2 followed by a group of 3).*
3. *Ask the class for all the combinations of numbers that add up to 7 (i.e. 4+3, 3+4, 2+2+3, 3+2+2, 2+3+2).*
4. *Make the comparison that these could also be all the combinations of quarter note groupings for 7/4.*

5. *Have the class clap the 4+3 grouping by having the class accent the beginning of the 4 grouping and the beginning of the 3 grouping. Try the other groupings if time permits.*
6. *Ask these questions one at a time or all together and have a discussion with the class regarding each question:*
    - *What would happen if these groupings represented eighth notes in 7/4 instead of quarter notes?*
    - *Would the groups need to be expanded to create 7 quarter note beats?*
    - *Could these groups be combined to create various groupings? (Combine the 2+3+2 grouping with the 3+2+2 grouping as an example).*
    - *How many combinations of eighth groupings are there?*
7. *Pass out a sheet with all the combinations of eighth note groupings for 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, 6/4, 7/4, and 9/4.*

Check for Student Understanding

Teacher will have the students clap and accent in 7/4 using the 232322 eighth note subdivision grouping to reinforce this concept.

Closure

Teacher asks the students to compose a bass line, harmonic progression, a song, etc. that explores one of these eighth note groupings with the intention of improvising over their composition. (Note: The assignment is intended give the students the freedom to choose how they wish to creatively explore this concept through composition and improvisation).

Extensions

1. *The exploration of groupings that are subdivisions of the quarter note other than the eighth note (i.e. sixteenth note, and triplet combinations).*
2. *The exploration of groupings that are extensions of the quarter note (i.e. dotted quarter, half note, dotted half note, whole note combinations).*
3. *Application of this concept to composition and improvisation.*

METER STUDIES

EIGHTH NOTE COMBINATIONS IN 3/4

222	33

EIGHTH NOTE COMBINATIONS IN 4/4

2222	332	323	233

EIGHTH NOTE COMBINATIONS IN 5/4

22222	3322	3232	3223	2332	2323
2233					

EIGHTH NOTE COMBINATIONS IN 6/4

222222	33222	32322	32232	32223	23322
23232	23223	22332	22323	22233	3333

EIGHTH NOTE COMBINATIONS IN 7/4

2222222	332222	323222	322322	322232	322223
233222	232322	232232	232223	223322	223232
223223	222332	222323	222233	33332	33323
33233	32333	23333			

EIGHTH NOTE COMBINATIONS IN 9/4

222222222	33222222	32322222	32232222	32223222	32222322
32222232	32222223	22222233	22222323	22223223	22232223
22322223	23222223	23222232	23222322	23223222	23232222
23322222	22332222	22323222	22322322	22322232	22233222
22232322	22232232	22223322	22223232	22222332	3333222
3332322	3332232	3332223	3323223	3322323	3322233
3323322	3322332	3323232	3222333	3223233	3223323
3223332	3233322	3233232	3233223	3232332	3232323
3232233	333333				