

Teacher/Performance notes for Recorder Frolics

Hand Drum Notation — Hand drum parts are written as follows:

stems down = slightly accented down stroke played with the thumb

stems up = unaccented up-stroke played with fingertips.

Feel free to re-orchestrate these pieces for flute and similar ensembles.

“It’s in the BAG” — A study using B, A, and G. Simple rhythms are used throughout. A percussion ostinato might be added.

“Wake Up! You Sleepy Head” — Slightly more complex than the first piece, but still a limited number of pitches are used. Invite children to add a text to the soprano recorder 1 part. In a final performance, you might use the hand drum ostinato as an introduction.

“Such Grace” — A study in G pentatonic using 6/8 meter. Students could play the soprano recorder 1 line as an introduction, then repeat the entire piece as written. Students could create a graceful dance to the piece.

“E’s and Low D — Canon in Three” — Invite the group to play the melody once in unison and then repeat in canon. Play the hand drums throughout. This piece could be used to introduce high E to beginners since it only is used once. Play low E if you prefer and challenge your class to play the high E.

“Frolics With F#” — Suggest using the hand drum ostinato as an introduction and as an interlude between repetitions. You might have the group play line 1 in unison, then line 2, and finally as written. Explore playing other melodies in thirds.

“Round E Round We Go-e” — Practice those E’s in 6/8!

“Warm and Witty” — Encourage students to use legato tonguing throughout. Lighten air flow to keep high E’s in tune.

“What to Do With 3 and 2” — A rhythmic challenge for students. Suggest additional Latin Percussion instruments to make this piece swing! Note that the pitches used in this piece do not go above high D.

“On a Roll” — You could present F natural with this piece. This piece also has a challenging tenor recorder part.

“Low and Sweet” — A piece in C pentatonic including high and low C. Encourage students to improvise pentatonic interludes between repetitions of the melody creating a recorder rondo.

“Cameron’s Train” — Add train whistles, repeat, and accelerando! Off you go!