

to drum

Hand Drum Activities for Grades 1 - 8

by Chris Judah-Lauder

Layout and Editing by Brent M. Holl

Editing Assistance from Karen Holl

Cover Design by Paul Lauder

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I am ecstatic to present this second collection of hand drum pieces for grades 1-8 for two reasons. First, my students have played an integral role in the creative process. Second, the book includes extensive lesson plans with objectives, process, and extension possibilities; full scores are given for every activity along with suggested visuals. As a result, the book blends student interest and involvement with helpful teaching information.

It's Not Long, Car Talk, and Poetry Group Activity include cooperative learning activities. When students work in cooperative groups, keep the objectives and sequence of steps in full view of the students. Providing small sequenced steps will guide them to a successful musical outcome. You can offer extra challenge by suggesting groups add a round, invent a movement, or create a new contrasting section. I have offered suggestions under "Extension Possibilities."

Assessment and accountability are key factors in the learning process. Be sure to make time for students to show you their work. You should assess their work and encourage them to acknowledge their peers' work, thus sparking new possibilities.

I strongly recommend teaching these pieces first through body percussion. Use one hand as the hand drum, and play it with the dominant hand. This minimizes noise level, encourages focus, and allows you to easily assess the students' work. Also, students will work hard to earn the privilege of having a hand drum.

With the elementary pieces, *Two Little Sausages, Doctor Foster, Buckle My Shoe, and Popcorn*, the students should first listen as you perform the piece several times as recommended by John Feierabend.

Grade levels are suggested, but I encourage you to adapt and arrange these pieces as you find what works for you and your students. As an anticipatory set for each song, make your objectives clear. You might list them on the board, and at the completion of the piece, ask the class if they have met those objectives. If not, encourage the class to work through the piece until the objectives are met.

Movement and hand drums make a wonderful marriage. Movement makes the drumming come alive, becoming visually stimulating and exciting to play. For performance, consider using a variety of floor patterns (semicircles, lines, scattered, etc.) as you align the students.

Once again, I offer these pieces as models. Teach outside the box and allow your students to incorporate their own ideas. Give them permission, and their joy in ownership will increase their musicality and enthusiasm for the learning process. Allow for creative noise!

Finally, I would like to thank my loving husband, Paul Lauder, for his creative cover design and continued support in all that I encounter in life, both personally and professionally. I am also thankful for the collaborative efforts of Brent and Karen Holl in the making of this book.

Have fun with these pieces! Play, speak, drum, and dance the cooperative way!

- Chris Judah-Lauder, 2004

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This Old Man

Materials Needed

- One hand drum and soft mallet (optional) for each student

Objectives

The learner will:

- Experience call and response.
- Play additive layering of ostinatos.
- Identify and play an extended form.

Formation

- Students sit or stand in self-space.

Teaching Process

- Provide a visual for the call and response.

Thumb	1		Thumb, thumb, on my thumb
Shoe	2		Ni - ke ten - nis shoe
Knee	3		Ouch! my knee!
Door	4		Please shut the door!
Hive	5		Hive an' jive oh yeah!

- Teach the lyrics by rote.
 - Speak together on the “All” sections.
 - Teacher speaks the “Call” part. Students speak the “Response” part.
- Transfer the Call and Response to hand drums, but continue speaking the All sections.
- Perform the song in additive style:
 - Perform measures one through four.
 - Perform measures five through eight plus measures three and four.
 - Perform measures nine through twelve plus measures seven and eight, three and four.
 - Continue with this pattern.

Form

- Speak entire poem without using hand drums.
- Perform as written using hand drums in additive style.

Extension Possibilities

- Divide the class into three groups and assign each group their own part.
 - Group One (8” Hand Drums) plays the All parts on hand drum.
 - Group Two (10” Hand Drums) plays the Call parts on hand drum.
 - Group Three (12” Hand Drums) plays the Response parts on hand drum.
 - Find a new floor pattern for each group (in lines, circles, scattered).
 - Ask Group One to work on a simple movement for their All part.
- Designate soloists to play the Call section. This person could also improvise crazy movements which all would have to imitate on the Response.
- Add a simple pattern (see example below) played on larger hand drums to accompany the song. This could also be used as an introduction, coda, and interlude if needed.

For Example:





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