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Lesson Plan - February
K-5 Music Teacher
Sheridan Elementary
Lincoln Public Schools



"WHALE" by Yellow Ostrich
Arranged by Madeline and Will McGuire

Level: 3rd-5th Grade

Objectives: Syncopation, triplets, modern band instruments

Materials: Barred instruments, tubanos/drums, tambourine

Video: Yellow Ostrich Performing "WHALE" live in NYC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YON3PJNdnwE>

Process:

Day 1

1. Discuss instruments in Yellow Ostrich's modern band: drumset, guitar, technology (looping). You can show students the live video of "WHALE".
2. Students clap the rhythm while singing each of the xylophone parts (background vocals in the original songs). Helpful hint: the rhythm is the same for all xylophone parts.
3. Transfer to xylophones and play with recording.

Day 2/3

1. Discuss the role of syncopation in this song. Explore what it would sound like if it were not syncopated.
2. Learn the melody.
3. Review xylophone parts by singing and clapping each part.
4. Add tubano ostinato and tambourine. I just use the words, "Play low___ go up, and" to help reinforce the tubano ostinato.
5. Put parts together and play with recording or perform without recording.

Extensions:

- Display rhythms and introduce triplets and a dotted eighth with a sixteenth note.
- Divide class into groups and create movement/statues to go with each xylophone part. Recreate looping effect by layering in each group with their movement.
- For a contrasting B section, have students improvise over the xylophone and tubano parts.

WHALE

By Yellow Ostrich
Arr. by M. McGuire and W. McGuire

J = 80

Voice *4*/*4* Whale, *3* swim with me whale *3* we will go

SX *4*/*4*

AX *4*/*4*

BX *4*/*4*

Tambourine *4*/*4*

Tubano *4*/*4*

2

Voice *4*/*4* far *3* in-to the sea. *3* You will take me *3* on-to your back. *3* Ne-ver look

SX *4*/*4*

AX *4*/*4*

BX *4*/*4*

Tbr *4*/*4*

TB *4*/*4*

4

Voice *back, never look back.*

SX

AX

BX

Tbr

TB