

Lesson Focus: Recorder Improvisation, low F practice

Recommended Grade Level: 4th or 5th, depending on when you introduce recorder

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1. When students are comfortable playing in F pentatonic, introduce “All Through the Night” from Carol King’s Recorder Routes (page 3), teaching the melody (in F) in whichever way you prefer.
2. In small groups, students create 4-beat word chains of “nighttime things” ex: sunset, darkness, stars, moon
3. Speak word chains as B section of “All Through the Night” (2 word chains=1 B section) and play song melody as A section. (ABA)
4. Students improvise a melody in F-pentatonic to the rhythm of their word chain. *Give plenty of time for students to “play” with these: alone, in small groups, and eventually for the class, possibly over the course of 2-3 lessons, depending on how much exposure they’ve had to improvisation.*
5. Choose a student who has chosen to end on “sol” as the first improviser and one who has chosen to end on “do” as the second improviser.
6. Play song in ABA form as a class, with improvisation soloists on B section.
7. Allow several volunteers, or turn it into a rondo with several pairings of students improvising.