



Skill Builder: A+ Articulation Warm-up

OVERVIEW

Measures 29 through 37 and measures 60 through 68 require students to perform marcato, staccato, and accented articulations. Students must be able to execute these articulations convincingly so that the listener can discern which articulation is intended.

LEARNING GOALS

Students will learn to differentiate and perform marcato, staccato, and accented articulations.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

1. Band instruments
2. Sheet music of A+: A *"Precise" Prelude* and An *"Excellent" March*

PROCESS

1. Talk to students about the differences between marcato, staccato, and accented notes.
2. Choose a scale in a concert key that is familiar to the band. Ask students to play repeated eighth notes on each pitch of the scale before moving to the next scale degree.
3. Each time the scale is performed, ask students to apply a different articulation to the notes. Students need to make a difference between the length of a marcato note and a staccato note. The amount of emphasis of attack needs to be greater for an accented note versus an unaccented note.
4. When the band members consistently perform the articulations correctly, specific notes in the scale may be played with a particular articulation. For instance, you may request that "every second eighth note of the four repeated eighth notes be accented." Another request may be, "play the first of every two measures of repeated notes as marcato notes and every second measure of repeated notes as staccato notes."
5. Individual members of the band may perform the scale with an intended style of articulation and the rest of the band try to determine which style of articulation was intended.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

Ask the band to perform measures 29 through 37 of the piece and then evaluate whether the articulations were effectively executed. Rehearsal may be recorded and played back so that students are able to concentrate on how well the entire band plays the articulations rather than their own individual performance.