



Skill Builder:

Hambone Syncopated Rhythm Warm-up

OVERVIEW

The musical style of *Hambone* requires performers to read and play a variety of syncopated rhythms accurately. Syncopations in *Hambone* occur in both parts that are clapped and parts that are played on instruments. The Syncopated Rhythm Warm-Up exercises aid performers as they learn syncopated rhythms.

LEARNING GOALS

Students will learn to perform syncopated rhythms.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

1. Syncopated Rhythm Warm-Up sheet music
2. Band instruments (optional)

PROCESS

The rhythms may be printed out and distributed for use in rehearsals. Band members may practice the rhythmic exercises in the following ways:

- Clap rhythms together as an ensemble or as individual performers. Half the students may also be asked to clap each rhythm while the other half of the ensemble claps the beat.
- Apply the rhythms to warm-up scales. Move to the next note of the scale each time you repeat the rhythm.
- Improvise by playing each rhythm using a variety of pitches from a scale.
- When all five rhythm exercises have been learned, improvise on the pitches of a scale by mixing the rhythms together.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

Ask the band to perform rhythms from the sheet music 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.