



## Skill Builder:

# Hambone Musical Style Warm-Up

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### OVERVIEW

The rhythms in *Hambone* are based on syncopated rhythms that are normally improvised while speaking sentences that rhyme. The parts written for each instrument indicate that the rhythms need to swing. Eighth notes are not supposed to be played evenly and dotted rhythms should be played with a loose feel. When performing *Hambone*, the music must sound like the performers are playing a musical game rather than reading musical notation.

### LEARNING GOALS

Once performers are comfortable with the musical style of *Hambone*, they should be able to perform the written notation in proper style, as well as improvise similar rhythms.

### RESOURCES & MATERIALS

1. Musical Style Warm-up sheet music
2. Band instruments (optional)

### PROCESS

To assist in the teaching of proper musical style, Musical Style Warm-up rhythms are provided that may be printed out, photocopied and distributed to students.

1. Clap and tap rhythms 1-6, concentrating on performing in a swing or shuffle style. The conductor's score and parts describe how to clap and tap the rhythms in a Hambone style.

Although rhythm #2 doesn't appear in *Hambone*, practicing the rhythm will help students play rhythm #3, which does appear in some parts. Have the students apply rhythm #2 to a warm-up scale. Ask them to be sure that the first note is held full value, the second note is accented, and the third note is staccato. Once rhythm #2 is mastered, move on to rhythm #3. Students should work for the same amount of accent and staccato on rhythm #3 that was achieved on rhythm #2.

2. The bass line that begins in measure 33 of *Hambone* has been transposed for all the instruments in the band. Select some instruments to play the bass line on Musical Style Warm-up: Part II while other instruments clap the rhythms on Musical Style Warm-up: Part I. Selected students may also improvise melodies in concert Bb while other band members play Musical Style Warm-up: Part II.