



Lesson #1: Rhythmic Accuracy

OVERVIEW

Rhythm is one of the elements in this piece that serves to enhance the melody and helps create fluidity in the music. In Chinese music, syncopation is the norm rather than the exception. Understanding syncopated patterns as they appear in *Thinking of My Home* is essential in the preparation and performance of this piece.

LEARNING GOAL

Students will accurately perform note values and rhythm patterns as they appear in the score.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- Music score for *Thinking of My Home*

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

- Students can identify note values by name
- Student can count rhythms using basic note values and simple dotted and triplet syncopated patterns

PROCESS

1. Review the rhythmic figure of the triplet (3 equal notes per beat or beats)
 - Identify where triplets occur in the music
 - Practice triplet rhythms in 4/4 meter

2. Review time signatures and how note values and counting change from eighth note to triplet rhythms. Have students clap and count each of the following patterns, listening to the difference in sound from the first measure to the second. Keep the quarter note count the same.



3. When students have mastered exercises such as these, move to the score and practice similar patterns from the music.

ASSESSMENT

Students can correctly clap and sing syncopated rhythms correctly.

EXTENSION

Using Orff xylophones or other keyboard instruments preset to the (“Zhi” – C, D, F, G, A) pentatonic scale, challenge students to perform the rhythm to one vocal phrase from the piece. Students can double up on additional instruments if they are available. If successful, students can expand to all 3 parts, creating an instrumental sound piece while reinforcing rhythmic and melodic concepts.

Follow this activity with Skill Builder Lesson #2 – Singing Harmony with Intervals of a 2nd.