

## Fun with Percussion!

*A modular set of videos which can be used in combination to create an interactive percussion concert, or as individual items to spark more in-depth explorations with percussion and other instruments / technology*

*I am suggesting an order, but of course please create your own if you prefer!*

### **1. Happy**

*A fun percussion take on the Pharrell Williams tune from the film Despicable Me, featuring vibraphone (the gold one with metal notes), marimba (the large one with wooden notes), drum kit, timpani (kettle drums) and other hand percussion.*

Ideas for interaction

- Clap along / dance / shake or play along with the beat!

### **2. Higuita**

*Four people on one marimba! A Latin American showpiece 😊*

Ideas for further exploration:

- Can you try playing together with one, two or even three others on an instrument? Try it on a tuned percussion instrument, or on Thumbjam with a marimba sound! How does it feel to share an instrument? Is it fun? Hard?
- Try some different ways of playing together: Q+A; Solo + accompaniment; Unison; Long notes + Short notes.
- Swap roles?

### **3. Look Out Little Ruth**

*An upbeat ragtime number, introducing the xylophone and the drumkit.*

Ideas for interaction and further exploration:

- Clap / shake or play along in time with the beat of this one.
- Try creating and playing your own drum beat (Crotchets – Low/High/Low/High etc). You can use a drum kit if you have access to one, or an iPad for this with a bass drum and a hi-hat or snare sound. You can even try making a drum kit out of anything you have lying

around the classroom or at home! Something with a low sound (eg bucket / plastic bowl) and something with a high sound (eg saucepan) – lots of things will work!

- Once you've got good at playing the beat, try it along with the music. Be careful though...it gets faster towards the end!

## 4. La Campanella

*Originally a piano piece by Franz Liszt (the third of his 6 Grand Etudes de Paganini) this version is played on two marimbas.*

## 5. O Drumming

*Some drumming for you! A mixture of African and Brazilian grooves...*

Ideas for interaction and further exploration:

- Dance!
- Find a percussion instrument and try playing along! Either just on the beat or simple combinations of crotchets and quavers will work.
- If there are a few of you, you could form your own drumming band! Create different sections and maybe even have someone come out to conduct them! (Different conducting signals for each section or idea. You could have a groove or beat with everyone playing in time; starting and stopping; call and response; rumble (everyone playing fast notes) with dynamics, getting louder and softer; taking it in turns to play solos...

## 6. Farewell To Stromness

*A beautiful Scottish tune by Peter Maxwell-Davies, played on marimba and vibraphone.*

Ideas for further exploration:

Create an improvisation based around this tune.

- Tune Thumbjam to D major and experiment with different sounds for improv. Marimba with reverb could be nice. Or something with sustain like cello or clarinet.
- I have attached my arrangement, so you could play accompaniment on piano / guitar or whatever. Alternatively, you could also record in the bass line and / or chords to the looper in Thumbjam, and play along...

## 7. Mexican Hat Dance

*Another upbeat Latin American number, though this one has several different sections...*

Ideas for interaction:

- If appropriate, it can be fun to learn to conduct in 2 and 3, and then try conducting along with the various sections!
- Otherwise, clapping / playing along in time...

## 8. Glass: Etude

*Another piano piece arranged for two marimbas.*

Ideas for further exploration:

- Try an improvisation based around another (more simple) Philip Glass piece – Mad Rush (score and audio attached). Thumbjam to F major, and either play accompaniment live, play along with audio file or record two or three layers into looper, then improv over top with sound of choice.
- Create your own minimalist composition! Minimalist music is often made up of several repeating patterns, layered over the top of each other. Experiment with this in the Thumbjam looper... Try starting with the marimba sound!

## 9. Film Themes Medley

Three famous tunes from the movies! Can you guess which films they are from?

## 10. Tio Macaco

*An upbeat Brazilian number to finish!*

Ideas for interaction and further exploration:

- Dance / clap / play along!
- Try some jazz improvising along with the music, or to your own version of the tune / accompaniment (score attached). Thumbjam set to Db major blues scale, and instrument / sound of your choice.
- Try some percussion or drum solos along with the track – can't have too much percussion in Brazilian music... ;)

Hope you enjoy these and have fun! Oliver :)