



## CLASS ACTIVITY: PERCUSSION DUET

### OVERVIEW

In this activity, students will work in duets to explore the roles of accompaniment and melody in a piece of music.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Begin by discussing the definitions of “accompaniment” and “melody” with the group. Accompaniment is a musical part that supports or complements a solo instrument, voice, or group. Melody is the principle part in harmonized music.

Now have the group act as the accompaniment, and you act as the melody. Have the group pat a steady 4/4 beat on their legs. Encourage students to keep a steady tempo, no rushing or slowing down. Once they have gotten comfortable with keeping the beat, add in a percussive melody by clapping different 4/4 rhythms (i.e. TA, TA, TI-TI, TA or TI-TI, TA, TI-TI, TA). Be sure that the accompaniment and melody remain at the same tempo together.

Next split the class into pairs, or duets. Have each duet decide who will act as the accompaniment and who will act as the melody. The accompaniment will always keep a steady 4/4 beat. The melody can create any 4/4 rhythm to go along with them. After duets have had time to practice, open the room up for volunteers to perform their duet pieces for the group. Have duet partners switch roles and repeat the activity.

### OPTIONAL

For an added challenge, split the class into groups of 3 or 4. Have just one student act as the accompaniment while the rest of the students in the group act as the melodies. Each melody student will choose their own 4/4 rhythm pattern to play simultaneously with the other melodies and the accompaniment. Challenge groups to keep the tempo steady between all the parts. Switch roles and repeat.