



Rhythms of the World

AIMS:

- To aurally recognise and appreciate instrumental and rhythmic characteristics of certain World Music.
- To learn ethnic percussion techniques and utilise them in composition.
- To learn about the construction of ethnic percussion and how this effects timbre.
- To develop standard and non-standard means of notating rhythm.
- To develop individual and ensemble skills within a percussion group.

**This particular series is
in three parts:
Part 1—India**



Rhythms of the World—India

YOU WILL NEED:

- A Recording of Indian
- A wide range of percussion instruments.
- Tabla / Dhol (if possible)
- Recording equipment.
- Map of the World.

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Drum machine.
- Computer & Rhythm Generating software
- Internet

LINKAGES:

SNAP—grids, patterns, subdivision and multiples of beats

ELLA—verbal and non verbal communications, diary entries

ICT—internet, music generating software

ADDITIONAL—roles and responsibilities, group work, ensemble direction, self assessment.

SUGGESTED ASSESSMENT:

- Ensemble performances of Tala.
- 'Diary entries'. (Self assessment)

India

Outline to the students that they are on a musical journey. You can make links with great discoverers (e.g. Columbus) or with travel writers (e.g. Clive James, Bill Bryson). The idea is for the students to keep a 'travel diary' of their musical discoveries.

ACTIVITIES:

- Listen to an extract of a Traditional Indian piece of Music that features the Tabla.
- Ask the students to identify the instruments playing.
- Discuss with the students the role of the instruments paying particular attention to the drums. Label one drum the Tabla.
- With the pupils sitting in a circle, describe and basically demonstrate the Tabla. If you have a Tabla, pass it around and ask the students to experiment making different sounds from striking the Tabla head. If you don't have a Tabla, find a youtube video showing how it is played.
- HANDOUT—WHAT IS A TALA? Go through the activities on the handout.
- GROUP PERFORMACE: As a class, compose a rhythmic line that uses the Jhap Tal (2 + 3 + 2 + 3). To help highlight the cross rhythms, accent some of the beats. Divide the class into 4 groups.
 - Group 1. Counts the beat numbers (1-16)
 - Group 2. Adds the clap (1,5 & 13) and the Wave (9)
 - Group 3. Says the 'Tabla Bols' (dha, din, din etc.)
 - Group 4: Claps the Jhap Tal written by the class.
- TRAVEL DIARY ENTRY—Students make notes regarding what they have learned. Make sure they have noted a tabla, tala, tabla bols and cross rhythms.



What is a Tala?

A "Tala" is an Indian term meaning a traditional rhythmic pattern. In western music, we subdivide our pulse into time signatures. For example:

Four bars of 3/4 will consist of 3 + 3 + 3 + 3

Four bars of 4/4 will consist of 4 + 4 + 4 + 4

However, in Indian music, each sub-division can have a different number of beats. For example:

Jhap Tal has a 2 + 3 + 2 + 3 combination

Dhamar Tal has a 5 + 2 + 3 + 4 combination

We would call this a piece of music with time signature changes. If we were to write this in western notation, the staff would look a little like this:



What is a Tintal?

Tintal (or teental, trital) is one of the most famous talas of Hindustani music. It is also most common tal in North India. The structure of tintal is so amazingly symmetrical that it presents a very simple rhythmic structure against which a performance can be laid. There are two parts to the Tintal. The first part of The Tintal is 16 beats divided into four groups of four (not unlike 4/4). The performer of the Tintal will clap on beats 1, 5 and 13 and will wave on beat 9. Where the numbers 2,3,4 are, they rest. Try clapping a Tintal.

Clap 2 3 4 clap 2 3 4 wave 2 3 4 clap 2 3 4

What is a Tala—bol?

The Tala—bol is the phonetics that imitate the sound of the Tabla. Each phonetic represents a different sound made using a different hand strike. Using your voice, imitate the sound that you think the tabla might create with these phonetics.

Try creating these sounds with a Tabla.

Dha dhin dhin dha
Dha dhin dhin dha
Dha tin tin ta
Ta dhin dhin dha



Indian Group Composition

In your groups, write your own Tala rhythm and create your own Indian rhythmic composition. You must use and include in your performance:

- The tala rhythm written
- The tital you were taught
- The tabla-bols (these can either be vocalised or recreated on a drum. If you do recreate these sounds on a drum, you must make sure that the different syllables sound different.)
- Improvised solo over the Tala rhythm written

You must perform this for the class. You can choose to have someone count if you need to but it is not necessary.

Notate the Tala:

Group Performance Structure:

General Comments:
