

Teacher notes for Rhythm Dots

This is a simple method to illustrate beat and rhythm to pupils. Rhythmic awareness is approached through performing a piece of music using dots in boxes.

Each box represents a **beat**. If a box is empty, nothing is played in the box. If the box contains a single dot, this equates to a crotchet (quarter note). Two dots are quavers (eighth notes) and four dots are semiquavers (sixteenths).

The whole concept can be started as a class by drawing 8 boxes on the whiteboard, each with a dot in them. As a class, clap each dot. Gradually erase dots and see what happens when there are only 2 left.

Below are two rhythm pieces with dots. The first contains only singles and doubles. The second includes also 4 in a box.

Don't forget that this also offers an opportunity to discuss the structure of the piece and the textures using simple musical vocabulary such as imitation, unison etc.

Two copies are printed on each sheet for convenience of copying. The colours make it easier for pupils to follow the parts.

4 PART RHYTHM PIECE (A)

●	●	● ●	●				
			●	●	● ●	●	
						●	●

					●		
						● ●	
● ●	●						● ●
●	●	●	● ●	●			

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		● ●		●		●	
	● ●				● ●		
●				●			

●	●		● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	●
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4 PART RHYTHM PIECE (A)

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						●	●

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●	●		● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	●

4 PART RHYTHM PIECE (B)

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			●		●		●

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● ●		● ●		●●●●	●●●●	● ●	●
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●●●●	● ●	●	● ●	● ●	●●●●	●●●●	●

4 PART RHYTHM PIECE (B)

●				●●●●	●		●
	●					● ●	●
		●			●		
			●		●		●

	● ●		● ●	●●●●	●●●●	● ●	●
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		● ●	● ●	●●●●	●	●●●●	●●●●
			● ●	● ●	●●●●	●	●●●●

			● ●	● ●	●●●●	●●●●	●
●			● ●	● ●	●●●●	●●●●	●
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●●●●	● ●	●	● ●	● ●	●●●●	●●●●	●