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Orff in Middle School:
Chromatic Possibilities

At the San Francisco School, our Middle School program makes good use of the chromatic Orff instruments as a way of continuing Elemental music making (kinesthetic, body-based, featuring improvisation and other forms of student creativity) and also moving into music of greater sophistication, suitable for older students. In this workshop we will experience two examples.
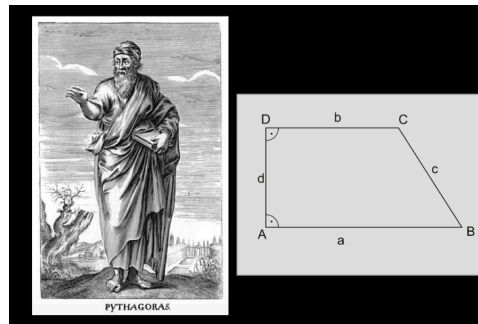
6th Grade example: Misirlou
(Greek/Armenian/Turkish Folk song)

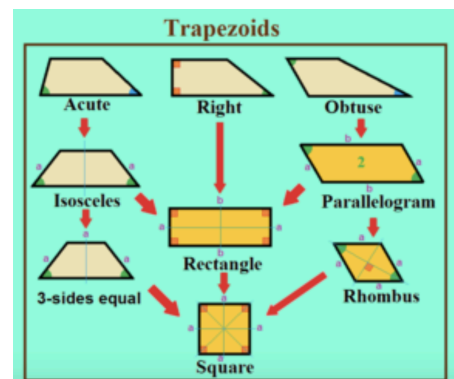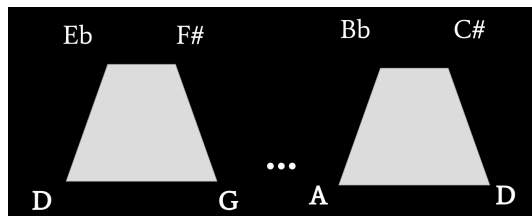Warm-up Activities:

Chant: "Pythagoras was Greek"
Body percussion pattern (Baladi rhythm):
Pat clap clap pat clap snap

Py - tha - go - ras   was   Greek!   Py - tha - go - ras   was   Greek!

Py - tha - go - ras   is   known for   Ge - o - me - try   Py - tha - go - ras   was   Greek!

Variation: With a partner, use elastic to create a trapezoid during the chant

D Hijaz (Hijaz kar) Scale: D Eb F# G A Bb C# D

Scale pattern exercise: 1 1-2-1, 1-2-3-2-1, 1-2-3-4-3-2-1, 1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1,
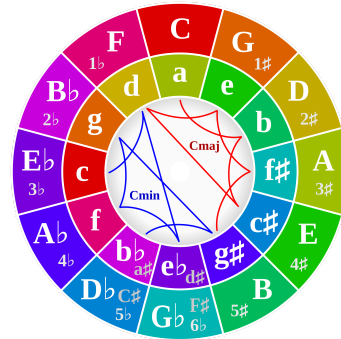1-2-3-4-5-6-5-4-3-2-1, 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1
Form: Improvisation by soloists during held tones   Misirlou Dance: YouTube
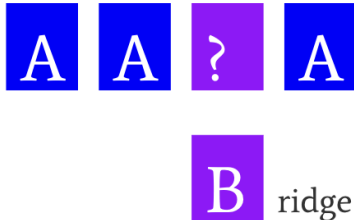
8th Grade example: Moonglow (A Jazz Standard)

Circle of 5ths Exercise (descending chromatic tritones)

STANDARDS

Popular Song Form

A A ? A

B ridge

Lyrics:

It must have been Moonglow
Way up in the blue
It must have been Moonglow
That led me straight to you

I still hear you saying
"Dear one, hold me fast"
And I started praying
"Oh, Lord, please let this last!"

We seemed to float right through the air
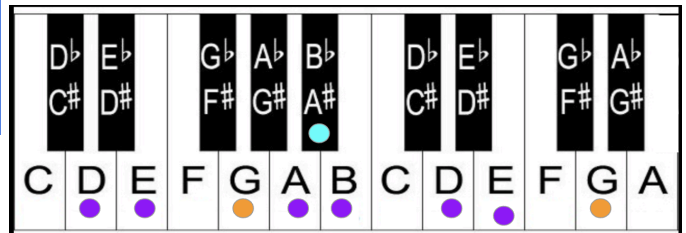Heavenly songs seemed to come from ev'rywhere

And now that there's Moonglow
Way up in the blue
I'll always remember
That Moonglow gave me you

Swing Rhythm:

COUNT	1	2	3	4
Ride Cymbal	Ride	Sal-ly	Ride	Sal-ly
Snare	low	**hi**-lo	low	**hi**-lo
Hihat Cymbal		X		X
Bass	X	X	X	X

Drama game: Make up introduction monologue or dialogue that leads into the song.

Improv Scale: G pentatonic

For more information about training in Orff Schulwerk, please contact:

NCAOSA (ncaosa.org) (Northern California) or American River AOSA (arosa.org) (Sacramento Area) or AOSA (aosa.org) National Organization.

Thanks to CASMEC for inviting me to present, and to Peripole for instruments! Yours, James