

Critical Music Making

Derived from critically thinking about music

Critical Listening

Goals

1. Understand WHY music sounds the way it does
 - What makes a piece feel finished, unfinished, energetic, restful - all of the above?
2. Understand tension and release in melody and harmony
3. Understand active and static movement in music
4. Gain the ability to discern shapes and motion of musical phrases
5. To be able to play and sing more expressively
6. To be able to compose music with rhythmic, melodic (and harmonic) shape
7. Be able to ask and answer questions regarding a piece of music

Activities/Lessons

1. Establish norms, symbols and vocabulary
 1. Agree on a range of dynamics from *ppp* to *fff* with *mf* as center
 2. Articulations
 3. High points, resting points, movement
2. Identify active and static rhythms
 1. Decide on what the qualities are
 2. Organize a set of patterns from most active to least active
 3. Choose patterns to complete phrases
3. Create active and static rhythms
 1. Write a series of original patterns and identify degree of activity
 2. Write a rhythmic phrase with active and static patterns
4. Identify phrases and shapes
 1. Group a melody into phrases
 2. Indicate what the shapes are
5. Identify tension and release
 1. Indicate where the tension and release moments are in a melody
6. Use symbols and vocabulary to enhance the shape, rhythmic activity and tension and release
7. Compose phrases that incorporate the above
8. Understand concepts of simple harmony and harmonic movement
9. Harmonize phrases
10. Combine harmonized phrases
11. Arrange and orchestrate complete compositions
 1. Perform
 2. Critique
 3. Record