

The P Plater

This activity has been done many times with adults and children and has always been successful. Students are able to get a good sense of how to create ostinati (repeated patterns) that work together as an accompaniment to a piece.

Activity:

(S.Brooke)

First you ...

*Click your seatbelt on before you turn the key
Gotta meet my honey at a quarter to three
Left on the clutch and right down flat
Here we go baby, just like that*

- Learn the rhyme with actions – Click seatbelt; turn key; pat heart; tap watch; left foot on front then jump to swap to right foot; drive around holding steering wheel.
- Groups make themselves into cars and at the end of the rhyme, drive around to the beat played on the drum.
- Each car creates an ostinato (repeated pattern) based on the type of car they are (eg fast lamborghini)
- Perform the ostinati together and discuss texture. (Does each ostinato complement the others? Can the ostinato be made more interesting by adding/withdrawing components?)
- Transfer the ostinato patterns to body percussion. Each word can be represented by a different body percussion and each syllable is represented by the body percussion (eg fast lamborghini can become stamp clap clap clap).
- Transfer the body percussion to untuned (non-melodic) percussion instruments (eg fast lamborghini may become drum bells bells bells).
- Perform the ostinati together and make adjustments as required.
- One possible way of performing this piece is to say the rhyme whilst accompanying with the ostinati (A) then improvise on the untuned percussion instruments for the length of the rhyme (B) followed by a repeat of the rhyme with the ostinati (A).
- There are of course many other ways of using the above ideas to create a performance.