

Body Percussion with Jason Nious

Grades 4-5

Mastering Rhythm, Pitch, Volume and Tempo with your Body: This lesson breaks down the definition of each of these musical elements as it relates to body percussion. Students will learn short, rhythmic patterns that illustrate each of these four terms, repeating them in a sequence to create a mini body percussion routine.

By the end of the lesson students will be able to:

- *Define each of the four musical vocabulary terms*
- *Demonstrate the differences between each of the musical terms on their bodies*
- *Rehearse and recall a body percussion sequence*

Materials: Your body and space to move

The Lesson:

WARM UP

Your body is a musical instrument. Body percussion is all about the different sounds and music you can make with your body. As we warm up our bodies to move, let's also warm up our ears to listen.

- Lead a percussive warm up

RHYTHM

Define Rhythm – A pattern of sounds that you can repeat over time

- Teach two different rhythm patterns as examples

VOLUME

Define Volume – the degree of loudness or intensity of a sound

Explore Volume on a scale of 1 – 5 using:

1. Claps
2. Foot stomps
3. Rhythmic patterns from above

PITCH

Define Pitch – Quality of a sound. High vs. Low

Explore sounds from different hand shapes when clapping

1. Curved / Arched
2. Identify high and low pitch - Bass claps. Tenor claps
3. Teach hand clapping rhythm using bass and tenor claps

TEMPO

Define Tempo – speed or pace. fast vs. Slow

Explore different tempos using a repeating rhythmic pattern using a scale of 1 – 5.

REVIEW

Teach a body percussion pattern reinforcing vocabulary words and concepts as we go.

- Practice varying the volume, pitch, and tempo within the rhythm.

Closing remarks.

Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts

- **Creating:** Conceiving and developing new artistic work and ideas.
- **Performing:** Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.

- Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.
- Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

Connection to Literacy: active listening, vocabulary, communicating, thinking, making connections, expressing ideas, responding

Resources

www.molodilive.com www.crosspulse.com www.stepafrika.org
www.bodypercussionclassroom.com

About the Artist

Jason Nious

As a performer, Jason has traveled extensively with Cirque du Soleil, Step Afrika, Stomp, and the International Body Music Festival. He has created award-winning choreography, worked as a cultural ambassador with the U.S. Embassy in Africa, South America, and Central America. Highlights include performing at Radio City Music Hall, Kremlin Palace, The Kennedy Center, and the Olympic Stadium in Azerbaijan. He served as assistant choreographer, dancer, and stunt double for the film *Stomp The Yard: Homecoming*, and has performed in dozens of regional theatre productions and films throughout his career. He honed his percussion and performance skills while working alongside some of the most talented artists this world has to offer, all of which strongly influence the work he does today as a teaching artist.

Currently, Jason facilitates Molodi's arts education program which reaches over 20,000 students per year. He serves as a teaching artist with Cirque du Soleil's Arts Nomades, Cleveland Playhouse's CARE program, and The Smith Center's education outreach program. He is an Artist in Residence with the Museum of Dance (SF), the education chair of the LAB LV Theatre Company, and regularly conducts in-school residencies through the Nevada Arts Council. Jason received his BA in Theatre from the University of New Mexico.

www.molodilive.com

Instagram @molodilive

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artists in schools +
communities

Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster

The Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster is an online resource for schools, organizations and communities seeking to engage teaching artists. Roster artists are experienced in collaborating with schools and communities to conduct arts learning and cultural experiences in, through and about the arts.

Explore the roster at <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/rosters/teaching-artists/>