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CHAPTER

RHYTHM

Rhythm makes music flow. It can make your foot tap and your body bounce or it could make you dreamy and relaxed. Rhythm is a major factor contributing to the emotional impact of music.

In this chapter, you will focus on three basic components of rhythm and will form **concepts** of them:

- **Beat** - the most fundamental rhythmic component providing the underlying steady pulse of the music ranging from fast to slow;
- **Melodic rhythm** - the long or short, even or uneven durations that occur in a melody;
- **Meter** - the grouping of beats, most typically in groups of two or three, in which a strong, stressed, downward-feeling beat begins each group.

In order to form a concept of each of the components and to develop the **skills** necessary for performance, you will:

- **explore** - life experiences, sounds and/or feelings for each of the components;
- **sing** - children's songs exemplary of each of the components while sitting in a lifted posture conducive to breath support;
- **move** - various parts of your body to feel the rhythm and to focus on the particular aspect receiving attention;
- **perform** - with body percussion using musical gestures and perhaps **play classroom instruments**, focusing on each component separately and then progressing to combinations with class members and/or individually;
- **explore** - sounds found in your classroom and use them as sound sources for accompaniments;
- **internalize** - songs or portions of them;
- **perform and/or create** - ostinatos and/or percussion scores;
- **listen** - to a variety of pieces of music, some found online, to aurally perceive the targeted component;
- **read** - some iconic and traditional rhythm notation;
- **listen** - to music from different genres and describe the overall rhythmic feeling of a musical selection and your emotional response to it.

Rhythm is fundamental to creating the overall mood of a musical selection. In many cases, it is the component you most readily notice when you hear music. You sense the general feeling as being slow and relaxing or fast and energetic. Your perception of the various aspects of rhythm contributes to your emotional response to the music. As you participate in the learning activities, your perception will heighten so that your listening experiences will become more fulfilling.

Rhythm is about time. One aspect is about the fast-slow continuum. These are relative terms. Think about "fast" for a bicycle as compared to "fast" for an airplane or about fast for a snail as compared to fast for a cheetah. Tiny