



Cumbia Rhythm 4 - Conga



Objective

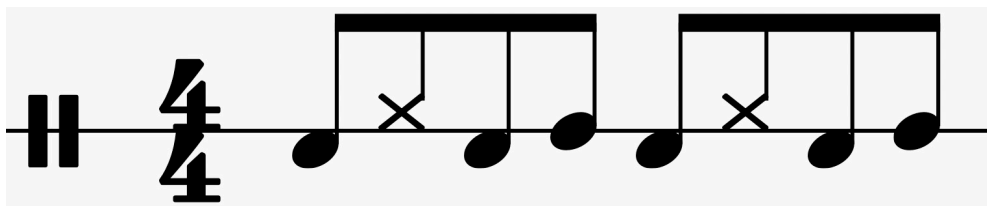
Students will play a cumbia rhythmic pattern on the congas or comparable percussion instrument.

Key Terms

Conga: Is a tall, narrow, single-headed drum from Cuba. It consists of three different sizes and tones and is commonly used throughout Latin and popular music. The conga is primarily played with your hands but can also be played with sticks.

Procedures

1. Students will begin by learning how to play the bass tone on the conga drum. This involves hitting the center of the drum head with the palm of your left hand. This should produce a low sounding tone that resonates the entire body of the drum.
2. Students will then learn how to play the slap tone on the conga drum. This involves striking the edge of the drum head with your right hand, while keeping the left hand on the drum.
3. Students will then learn how to play the open tone on the conga drum. This involves striking the edge of the drum head with your right hand and allowing it to bounce off of the drum, creating that distinct open sound.
4. Once students feel comfortable playing each of the three tones on the conga drum, they are now ready to apply these techniques onto a cumbia rhythm.
5. The cumbia rhythm for congas involves playing a continuous 8th note pattern with a combination of the three previously explained tones.
6. The pattern goes as follows: Bass - Slap - Bass - Open - Bass - Slap - Bass - Open
7. Students can practice the pattern between 60 - 70 BPM until it feels comfortable. Then they can build it up to 88 BPM.



Extension

Students can research variations for playing cumbia patterns on the congas and begin to adapt them to their own playing.

National Core Arts Standards

MU:Pr4.3.6 - Perform a selected piece of music demonstrating how their interpretations of the elements of music and the expressive qualities (such as dynamics, tempo, timbre, articulation/style, and phrasing) convey intent.

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