

# Using Barred Instruments in the Classroom!

Where do I start?



# Why are mallets an important part of the K-8 Curriculum?

- It's an opportunity to meet the standard of **Perform** by exploring, demonstrating and understanding the element of music through playing an instrument
- You can meet the standard of **Create** by exploring melodic phrases, along with composing and improvisation
- Great way for students to work on hand/eye coordination
- Learn how to handle and take care of instruments
- To comprehend and put into practice of how to read music on the staff



# What the basic techniques of playing mallets?

- Be clear with directions when taking mallets off the shelves and moving bigger instruments on carts. Don't be afraid to let them know the monetary value of these instruments and how they belong to every grade level in the school.
- Pinch and Hug your mallets about  $\frac{1}{4}$  up from the bottom
- Palms face the floor like you are going to ride a bike
- NO pointer fingers- please make sure this is a standard in your room. Tell students the “ why”. Bottom line is that the hand placement is for Support of the mallet and CONTROL of the mallet
- Play in the middle of the bar where the letter is, not on the edge or the bars or they will flip upward.
- We do NOT pound on the mallets. We are always playing like musicians and treating our mallet instruments well.
- Do not touch the yarn part of the mallet. Explain there is a wooden ball underneath and mallets are expensive.
- Show where hometown “C” is.....longest bar on the instrument, and then reference C to C, and 1-8. Reference up and down, next bar over using letters AND numbers

# 2nd- 3rd Grade Ideas with Mallets

Pease Porridge Hot- Grade 2 - Musicplayonline

- [https://musicplayonline.com/songs/pease-porridge-hot/?my\\_access\\_code=C876341&modal=notation-8dc427c9534d23c845d790cd583ebcbe](https://musicplayonline.com/songs/pease-porridge-hot/?my_access_code=C876341&modal=notation-8dc427c9534d23c845d790cd583ebcbe)
- Students will identify Treble Clef, rhythms, and sing through the song
- In the air, play the rhythm for “Nine Days Old”.

Transfer to the mallets-

- Talk the 8 notes on the mallets- I do not take off any bars on the mallets. I treat mallets the same way I would teach a piano lesson. Mallets stay on the shoulders until we play
- 8 steps make a scale- every students will roll on 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
- Put quarter, Quarter, Quarter Rest on the board- have students figure out the two two notes to play for “Nine Days Old” - Great ear training
- Play the song and have the students play on “Nine Days Old”- I would also add finger cymbals on the quarter rests.
- Also can play C and G as a Bordun - broken up or together

# 1st-2nd Grade Ideas with Mallets

## Snail Snail - Grade 1-

<https://musicplayonline.com/songs/snail-snail/?r78656cf5ea378583b01>

- First read through the song- identify Treble Clef, quarter notes and eighth eighth notes
- Sing through the song-
- Show how to get the Glockenspiels off the shelf.
- Mallets on your shoulders until we play
- Discuss hometown "C"- Longest Bar
- Discuss numbers 1-5 on the mallets
- Play 5 and 3 as quarter notes- do not play on the eighth eighths
- Checking for understanding and assessing while they are playing

# Grades 3-5 Ideas

## Ame Ame

- Students are learning about the country and the Eastern Music of Japan
- Show Japan on a map and give some simple facts about the country and how long it would take to fly there
- [https://musicplayonline.com/songs/ame-ame/?my\\_access\\_code=C876341&modal=notation-93fc7e54a6ec8330983cc869ada1beb1](https://musicplayonline.com/songs/ame-ame/?my_access_code=C876341&modal=notation-93fc7e54a6ec8330983cc869ada1beb1)
- This is song about running in the rain- Students will identify the the top number in a time signature ( I start this in 3rd grade)
- Sing through the song-
- Talk about Borduns- broken up or the same time ( C and G,) (C,G,C- crossover technique)
- <https://www.eemusicclass.com/view/notation?id=36>
- [https://musicplayonline.com/units-list/japan/?my\\_access\\_code=C876341&modal=travelogue-29eb8870a3efcef9db7df6f596ff9d02](https://musicplayonline.com/units-list/japan/?my_access_code=C876341&modal=travelogue-29eb8870a3efcef9db7df6f596ff9d02)
- I love to show this important video from John Jacobson on Musicplayonline from Units under Japan- It's a Musical World- this is great for students to connect to the culture, music, food and scenery of this beautiful country

# Improvisation with Mallets

- C Jam Blues- Great unit to teach in April- Jazz Appreciation Month
- Have students listen to the recording - C Jam Blues- Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra- Talk briefly about Duke Ellington- Famous Jazz Bandleader and Pianist
- [https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/mSBmMswu17k?playlist=mSBmMswu17k&autoplay=1&iv\\_load\\_policy=3&loop=1&start=](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/mSBmMswu17k?playlist=mSBmMswu17k&autoplay=1&iv_load_policy=3&loop=1&start=)
- Jamie Abersold- C Jam Blues-  
[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/CsfAz6Cjmq0?playlist=CsfAz6Cjmq0&autoplay=1&iv\\_load\\_policy=3&loop=1&start=](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/CsfAz6Cjmq0?playlist=CsfAz6Cjmq0&autoplay=1&iv_load_policy=3&loop=1&start=)
- (I put it on 1.25 playback mode) GG GG GG GC
- Students can improvise on those two notes: Rolls, octaves, play notes together or alone, repeating the notes, ect.

# Virtual Instruments

There is a great section in Musicplayonline to show students before they play or use it as a reference in Units under Orff and also

[https://musicplayonline.com/units-list/orff-directory/?my\\_access\\_code=C876341](https://musicplayonline.com/units-list/orff-directory/?my_access_code=C876341)

[https://musicplayonline.com/toolbox/glockenspiel/?my\\_access\\_code=C876341](https://musicplayonline.com/toolbox/glockenspiel/?my_access_code=C876341)

- Show them where Hometown “C” is.....
- Talk about both letters and numbers to reference different spots on the instrument.
- Demonstrate what you want students to know and understand before taking out the instruments



# What to Purchase?

- K- 1 Students
- <https://www.westmusic.com/basic-beat-bb12b-12-note-glockenspiel-with-case-200769>
- <https://www.westmusic.com/search/?q=glock> ( and upper elementary students)
- 
- Upper Elementary Grades 2-8
- <https://musicplayonline.com/media/instrument-list-for-musicplay-copy/>
- <https://www.westmusic.com/orff/orff-instrument-sets>
- <https://www.westmusic.com/search/?q=mallets>
- Use medium for xylophones and metallophones, basic beat plastic mallets for glockenspiels