

# Arts Assessment For Learning

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MUSIC - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## HOW TO & TIPS: ORF IMPROVISATION & COMPOSITION

After reviewing improvisation, form and style from our previous jazz unit, we will discuss how to apply these techniques to historical work songs from Share the Music, Unit 4. This process will be implemented for 6 weeks (or 6 consecutive song activities) to track students' progress in improvisation and composition, as well as track the quality of their feedback.

### Step 1: Learn Melody by Rote

- Students learn a melody per lesson.

### Step 2: Develop an Orff Arrangement

- Each song is made into an Orff arrangement, beginning with a bordun (e.g., root and fifth of the scale) on a xylophone.
- Students practice the borduns while singing, accompanying themselves.
- Discuss the A and B sections in the form of the piece.

### Step 3: Improvisation over A Section

- Teacher models a four bar improvisation.
- Teacher and students co-create a checklist (see attached) for improvisation techniques. The checklist is posted on the board.
- Students improvise. Improvisation length can vary from 2-16 measure increments.

### Step 4: Peer Assessment and Revision

- Students pair up on xylophones and perform four measure improvisations.
- Partners give verbal feedback using the checklist.
- Students perform their four measure improvisations again, with revisions.
- Partners use the feedback form (see attached) to write comments.
- After both partners have performed and written feedback, they discuss the feedback.
- Students volunteer to share their feedback with the class.
- Students revise their improvisations again.

### Step 5: Informance (in-class performance)

Small group and individual solos incorporated into the arrangement will culminate in a class informance.