

ArtStream

Written Instructional Guide



Experimental Music

For 6 - 8 Grade Students

With Teaching Artist Kathie Hsieh

Lesson 1: Sound Exploration

Introduction

- What is **improvisation**?
 - Creating music without previous preparation
 - There may be pre-set parameters
- What are **found sounds**?
 - Found objects that are repurposed as an instrument

Materials

- For this lesson, you will need
 - Blank Paper & Pencil
 - Hard Surface
 - 5 household items (found sounds):
 - Recycled Paper (newspaper, printer paper, etc.)
 - Silverware (plastic, wooden or metal)
 - Water bottle
 - Dried beans or dried rice
 - Coins
 - Timer



Reflection Moment

- Take a minute to reflect upon your day so far.
 - What went well in your day today? What didn't go well?
 - How are you feeling?
- During this lesson, there will be no judgement and this is a safe place to explore and be creative! There are no wrong answers.

Gather Your Materials

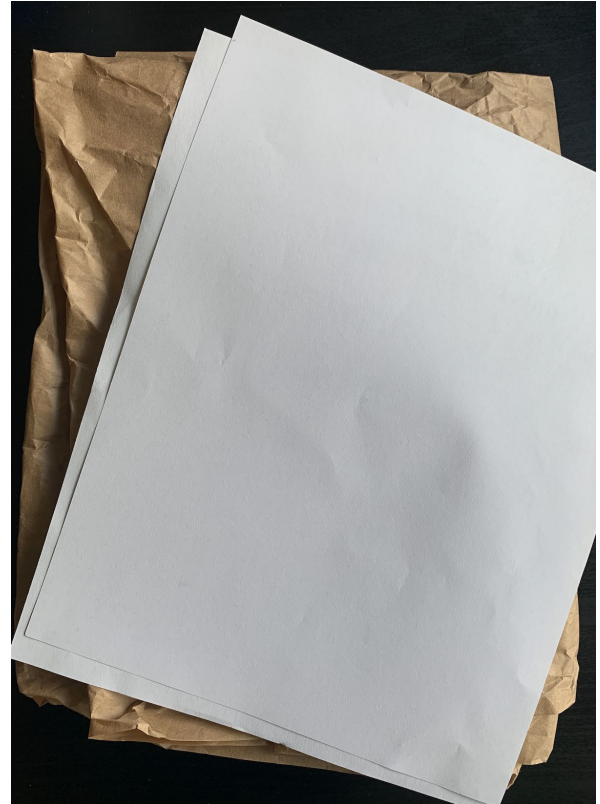
- Blank paper & pencil for taking notes
- Gather the 5 household items:
 - Paper
 - Silverware
 - Water Bottle
 - Dried beans or dried rice
 - Coins
- Hard surface for your to place items on and use.

Remember! Safety first! I want you to be creative but I also want you to be safe. Please don't throw anything or hurt yourself. Use your best judgement.

Sound 1: Paper

- You may have different kinds of paper: **newspaper**, **printer paper**, **construction paper**. Each of these kinds of paper will have different sounds!
- Try crumpling, ripping, shaking, rubbing or flicking the paper.
- Write down your favorite sound.

Notice: As you improvised on your paper, it started to change! When it's crumply, the paper becomes soft, and the sound is not as crisp! What happens if you really liked the crisp sound? How can you adapt and find a new sound? The awesome about found sounds, is that you have to adapt to it.



Sound 2: Silverware

- You can have either **plastic, ceramic, wooden or metal silverware**.
- Try hitting the items together, rubbing them together, or:
 - If you have a plastic fork you can pluck the points to make a sound.
 - If you have knives, you can rub the serrated parts with each other.
 - If you have spoons, you can hit them together.
- Write down your favorite sound.



Sound 3: Water Bottle

- You may have a **plastic water one**, a **reusable one**, a **metal one**, or a **glass one**! Yours may or may not have water in it - both is okay!
- Try shaking the bottle, hitting bottles together, flick it, rolling it or:
 - You can combine some items! You can use silverware as a mallet or stick to strike the bottle.
- Write down your favorite sound.



Sound 4: Dried beans or dried rice

- You may have any kinds of **dried beans or rice (or both)** They may be in any sort of container or loose.
- Try shaking the container if the dried beans or rice.
- Try sprinkling the dried items.
- Write down your favorite sound.



Sound 5: Coins

- You may have different **sizes of coins**.
- Try shaking the coins, spinning them, rubbing them against the table, clinking it against each other and more!
- Write down your favorite sound.



Label Your Sounds

- Now that you have explored the different items and sounds, take a moment to reflect upon your favorite sounds.
- Order your favorite items from 1 -5 and label them with a post it note.

Let's improvise!

- Set a timer for 2 minutes and 30 seconds.
- You will improvise on each found instrument for 30 seconds:
 - 0-00:30 = #1 Instrument
 - 00:30 - 01:00 = #2 Instrument
 - 01:00 - 01:30 = #3 Instrument
 - 01:30 - 02:00 = #4 Instrument
 - 02:00 - 02:30 = #5 Instrument



Thank you!

- Cool sounds are all around you!
Continue exploring sounds, what other sounds can you come up with?