

NYSSMA MUSIC VIEWS

Standards-Based Teaching & Learning Across the State



Lesson Plan for NYSSMA Music Views

Name: Jerrold Miraglia

Title: 12 Measure Bb Blues Improvisation

Level

- ✓ Elementary
- ✓ Middle School
- High School

Content Area

- ✓ Band
- Chorus
- Classroom
- Orchestra

Objective

Students will improvise 12 measures using the Bb Blues chords progression of: I, IV, I, I, IV, IV, I, I, V, IV, I, I. Students will include the flat 3, flat 5, and flat 7 in their improvisation.

The NYS Learning Standard(s) this lesson will address...

- ✓ Creating, Performing and Participating in the Arts
- ✓ Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources
- Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art
- Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts

National Standards for Music Education this lesson...

- ✓ Singing – alone and with others – a varied repertoire of music
- ✓ Performing on instruments – alone and with others – a varied repertoire of music
- ✓ Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments
- Composing and arranging music within specific guidelines
- Reading and notating music
- ✓ Listening to, analyzing and describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances
- Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture

NYSSMA MUSIC VIEWS

Standards-Based Teaching & Learning Across the State



Instructional Ideas

- Students will sing the roots for the chord progression using numbers.
- Teacher will perform 2 measure patterns using the lowered 3, 5, & 7 over the progression, played back by students.
- Students will perform 4 measure question and answer patterns (call and response). Students that ask the question (call) will end their improvisation on a note other than the root, the student that answers (response) will end on the root.
- Students will individually improvise for 12 measures over the Bb blues progression.

Assessment

- Students will evaluate each other's performance indicating the blue notes that were used in the improvisation.
- Teacher will indicate the notes used in the improvisation.

References/Resources

Blues and the Basics by Domenic Spera

Notes

The lesson plan, 12 measure Bb blues improvisation, is just one of many approaches to teaching students to begin to improvise. When singing, numbers are used for chords, (i.e. 1-tonic, 4-subdominant and 5- dominant) and solfege is used when singing patterns or melodies. I have had success by having students always sing the chord progression, and also sing patterns and melodies before playing on their instrument.