

# Improvisation with the Blues

## Music

Middle Level 6-8

### Purpose

Students will improvise simple melodies and/or rhythms.

### Description

Students will improvise over a sequenced 12-bar blues accompaniment. Their performance will be videotaped for self-evaluation. (This lesson can follow the "1940's American Jazz" lesson for Middle Level students.)

Activities	Curriculum Standards	NETS for Students
Preparation: Teacher will *Prepare a 12-bar blues accompaniment for hardware or software sequencer. (Use Junior Jam Session "Orffin' Blues" or standard 12-bar blues in either a major or minor key) *Provide various rhythm and melody instruments to play (unpitched percussion instruments, recorders, barred instruments) *Prepare video equipment		
Students will help program a 12-bar blues accompaniment into hardware or software sequencer. (Use <u>Junior Jam Session</u> "Orffin' Blues" or standard 12-bar blues in either a major or minor key)	A.C. & P. 1, 3a, 3b	1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9
Students will improvise rhythmically, as a class, to a sequenced blues accompaniment.	A.C. & P. 3c	
Each student will choose an instrument and improvise for 8 beats, taking turns playing along with the accompaniment	A.C. & P. 3c	8
Videotape the performance		1, 4, 5, 6, 8
Assess the performances	A.I. 3	

### Tools and Resources

(List all Web sites, specific software and hardware needs)

#### Tools and Resources:

Band in the Box or sequencing program (Cake Walk, Master Tracks, etc.)  
Junior Jam Session (book and cassette tape) by Laurie Zentz  
Video recording equipment  
Barred instruments, keyboard, recorders and rhythm instruments

Also check out: Music Teachers National Association, MTNA/IAJE Jazz Studies Guide [www.mtna.org/iaje.htm](http://www.mtna.org/iaje.htm)

This lesson can follow the "1940's American Jazz" lesson for Middle Level students.

#### Assessment

(How will you assess the students' learning? If you have a rubric, record it here. Be as specific as possible)

Students will be assessed on their participation in the improvisation. They will also do a written self-assessment, telling how they felt when improvising.

Their notes will be posted for everyone to read.

#### Authors (including contact information)

**(Record the names and email addresses, if possible, of those who contributed to the development of this lesson sequence)**

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#### Personal Account

**(Have you taught this lesson sequence before? What are the great learning/experiences you had?)**

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