

Ellen Douglas

General Music Lesson:  
Celtic Music from Ireland, Scotland and the British Isles

Objective:

Given lecture, teacher demonstration, "show and tell", pictures and recordings, the student will be able to identify key elements of Celtic music such as timbre, instrumentation, tuning, ornamentation (slides, mordents, double stops, and flicks) in addition to knowledge of Celtic history and traditions that will be evaluated at the end of the unit in a quiz format. (P/F)

Introduction to the material to be learned:

"Alright class, please turn the chairs around and form a circle! We're going to set up in the fashion of a traditional Celtic music session."

Materials:

Recording of "Star of the County Down"

Celtic Instruments: Fiddle, Accordion, Flute, Penny whistle, Recorder, Spoons, and Guitar

Slides of other instruments: Bodhran, Bag Pipes, Uilleann Pipes, Celtic Harp

Handout of Celtic tunes "The Banshee" and "Punter's Graveyard"

Anticipatory Set:

While the class is walking in and changing the arrangement of the room (moving the chairs into a circle) a recording of "Star of the County Down" will be playing in the background.

Methodology:

The teacher will give a brief introduction to Celtic history, including how, where, and why the music originated (including information on social and political occurrences at the time).

Guided Practice:

The teacher will do a short "show and tell" on the traditional instruments on hand, including the Fiddle, Accordion, Flute, Penny whistle, Recorder, Spoons and Guitar to demonstrate their timbres, possible ornamentations, tuning and historical origins. The teacher will describe the other instruments on overhead slides and play recordings of them from youtube or equivalent.

Independent Practice:

The teacher will allow the students to try the instruments out on their own for 5-7 minutes while the teacher circulates the room and answers questions.

Assessment:

At the end of the unit on Celtic music, the teacher will administer a unit test that will cover the origins of celtic music, types of ornamentation, tuning of instruments and the timbres associated with each instrument.

Closing:

The teacher will pass out a copy of "The Banshee" and "Punter's Graveyard", which are two Celtic reels. The student may participate in the piece by clapping, singing, playing instruments such as guitar, fiddle, penny whistle accordion etc. and will be asked to add in the ornaments discussed in class.