Composing & Practicing Rhythms
with Andrew Grueschow

A QUICK HOW-TO
Here is an exercise to help you read, write and play music.

1. Think of examples of steady beats found in everyday life (dripping water faucet, heartbeat)
2. Practice the “Call & Response” patterns in the video. (Ostinato)
3. Create some of your own patterns. Practice them.
4. Write your own rhythm pattern(s) down on paper. Practice reading and saying, or clapping, the patterns. Compose and practice several different patterns.
5. Combine four 4-beat patterns together and repeat.

NEW WORDS

Steady Beat
An ongoing, even pulse.

Ostinato
Playing the same pattern of beats repeatedly.

Call & Response
A leader gives an oral or musical rhythm, answered by the group repeating it or responding with a different pattern.

Indian drumming syllables
- TA - blue cup; quarter note.
- TA KA - red cup; 2 eighth notes.
- TA KA DI MI - yellow cup; 4 sixteenth notes.
- REST - clear cup; quarter note rest.

4-Beat Rhythm Patterns
A pattern of sounds that adds up to four quarter notes - a combination of quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes & rests.

Four, 4-Beat Measures of Music
Four patterns of 4-beats each played in sequence.

MATERIALS
Blue, red, yellow and clear cups; paper and pencil.

THINK ABOUT IT
What skills did you use to be able to create and perform four different patterns in a sequence? How many patterns are possible?

DIG DEEPER
To learn more about rhythmic Patterns, check out The Music Center’s Artsource Curriculum: Chuck Davis “African Roots in American Soil” and “Japanese Festival Sounds.”
www.musiccenter.org/education/teacher-resources/artsource-curriculum/

TRY THIS CHALLENGE
Invite people around you to practice “Call & Response,” with you as the leader. Put two patterns together and repeat them as an ostinato. Then, combine four 4-beat patterns together and repeat many times. Try dancing to your music!