The Rhythmic Scale

with Joseph Peck

A QUICK HOW-TO
Here is a musical experience called, “The Rhythmic Scale.” This session, guided by Joseph Peck, centers on the building blocks of rhythm and how rhythmic patterns are created. He invites you to join him in The Caribbean Drum Circle.

1 What were the main things you learned from Joseph’s lesson and demonstration? What is a Steady Beat? Demonstrate eight counts of a steady beat.

2 Can you say each of the different sound patterns that make up “The Rhythmic Scale?” They are listed below. Use your mouth to “Click” a steady beat four times, then do each of the four patterns, one at a time, for eight counts. Build a sequence without stopping in between the sound patterns.

3 Begin with the steady beat and practice the following:
   THOM - hands clap downward on the knees and then turn upward and pause;
   TA - each hand claps alternately on the knees, matching the steady beat;
   TA KA - alternately clap each hand on each knee but twice as fast;
   TA KA DI MI - say and clap pattern and clap it on the knees.

4 Begin with four counts of the steady beat; starting with THOM, do each rhythm for 8 counts; begin with THOM, moving upward on the scale and moving downward. Practice.

5 Tap a steady beat, beginning with 4 counts. Combine patterns together in different ways (improvise).

THINK ABOUT IT
What did you learn about the Rhythmic Drum Scale? What would you like to know more about?

DIG DEEPER
To learn more about rhythm, check out The Music Center’s Artsource Curriculum with Chuck Davis, “African Roots in American Soil.”
www.musiccenter.org/education/Teacher-Resources/Artsource-Curriculum/
Available-ArtSource-Units/Chuck-Davis---African-American-Dance-Ensemble/

TRY THIS CHALLENGE
If you have a friend, invite them to join you in making a Caribbean Drum Circle. One of you sets a steady beat; the other creates different rhythmic patterns over the steady beat. Switch roles.

NEW WORDS

Steady Beat
A repeated, even pulse

Rhythmic Drum Scale
THOM
1 sound/hold 1 beat; half note
   TA
1 sound; quarter note
   TA KA
2 sounds to every 1 beat; eighth notes
   TA KA DI MI
4 sounds to each beat: sixteenth notes

Rhythmic Pattern
A combination of beats that forms a pattern

Improvise
Making up ideas on the spot