



EVELYN GLENNIE |

TEACHER BOOKLET

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Evelyn Glennie

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How would you teach a class of mixed musical abilities?

The discovery of sound and improvisation is important to develop in a mixed class of musical abilities. Whether some individuals play an instrument or not would not prevent any youngsters collaborating together to create and build a sound picture. Using found objects as well as thinking outside of the box in how instruments can be played is fun for all and can bring unexpected results. Analysing and making decisions as a team can help our listening skills. From this angle new musical notation can be encouraged and developed which would come from the children themselves.

Which instruments would you recommend?

Thinking about the children's sound diet is important. Sounds which are low, mid and high in frequency, short and long sounds, soft and loud all need to be considered. Also, consideration can be made as regards to the kinds of instruments which can be mobile or put on desks or stands so that the child's posture is always at the forefront when 'giving' their sound meal. Therefore, mallet percussion such as glockenspiels can be contrasted with the much deeper Orff type marimba bars; a cymbal can be contrasted with a deep sounding bass drum or frame drum; a maraca can be contrasted with a handheld vibratone.

Is it better to start with African Rhythms or Samba Rhythms?

I would start with observing the rhythms of one's own environment such as the rhythm of walking, running, skipping, typing on a phone or computer, rhythm of speech and so on. The idea is to enhance the listening and observation skills of what is around the

children so that they can build a rhythmic landscape of their own/immediate environment.

What printed music do you suggest for children?

Some ideas of publications for the use of reading music and improvisation as well as developing your own instruments is my [Beat it! Series of African Dances](#) and Caribbean Street Music, available from our shop. These publications can be used in any way the teacher/pupils wish according to their own situation. These publications are meant to ignite some ideas in order for the pupils to fly with! All of my printed music can be found [here](#).

If you have any more questions, take a look at the range of student booklets we have available divided into topic sections. Still can't find what you're looking for? Email pr@evelyn.co.uk with your questions.

Where to find Evelyn?



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