

## NOTATION ACTIVITIES

### GAMES OPTIONS for MMFP students

These Ideas work for overlap lessons, group classes, waiting times etc. Students do these activities in many ways. Here are a few examples from my studio:

- Partners or small groups together
- Older student helps younger
- Alone while another student is at the piano
- While waiting for a lesson
- At the end of a lesson when another student/group is coming in
- Waiting to get picked up
- Want to stay for a few extra minutes

### **AT KEYBOARD ACTIVITIES**

Integrated notation preparation: Very short games/activities that can be played consistently when at the keyboard. Here are a few examples:

- Follow and trace rhythm patterns with fingers while listening to recordings or while others play
- Notice directional elements (ie Turkey Gobbler, Falling Leaves)
- Notice lines of music (which is solo and duet parts)
- Chant rhythms while pointing and following with fingers
- Notice lines and spaces (Point and ask: "Is this note a line note or a space note?")
- Refer to Marilyn Lowe's "Notation Observations for Little Gems Pieces" for many more great suggestions

### **AWAY FROM KEYBOARD ACTIVITIES**

- Notice lines and spaces---circle all space/line notes (or color or highlight in a line of music)
- Use your keyboard flashcard\* to find keyboard registers. Learn to label high, low, middle, bass, treble by using the groups of two black keys.
- Use your keyboard flashcard\* to find the "5 C's" (Book 2 Unit 3). Mark, color, label etc
- Match DO signature flashcards\*\* with matching LA flashcards
- Match DO signature flashcards\*\* with cards or pieces.
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) clefs in a piece of music (treble or bass or both with different colors)
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) all the DO's(LA's) in a piece of music (do treble separate from bass)
- Copy DO Signatures on a white board
- Match all Song to Sing flashcards\*\* (or a select few) with the songs in the books (can write song titles on laminated cards)
- Find all the Song to Sing flashcards\*\* that have the same DO signature
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) sharps and flats in piece of music
- Count the number of sharps or flats in a DO signature
- Roll DO signature dice\*\*\* and find matching DO signature flashcard

- Look (point, color, trace, circle) for black and white noteheads in a piece of music
- Draw 5 note parts
- Draw pictures with the 5 note parts
- Combine note parts to form various types of notes
- Draw pictures with various types of notes (eg black notes, white notes, beamed notes dotted notes etc)
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) notes connected by one stem (harmonic chords or intervals)
- Circle ledger line notes
- Notice stem directions (eg color, highlight, circle 5 notes with stems going down)
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) beamed notes, flagged notes, white notes etc
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) rests
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) “bar lines”
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) symbols of music such as dynamic markings etc
- Find (point, color, trace, circle) intervals (I start with 5ths and 3rds)
- Draw intervals on the staff. Notice unmatched and matched. (Use black noteheads)
- Draw a line-line-line triad (or space-space-space) on the staff. (Use black noteheads)
- Draw or copy rhythm patterns (use different types of notes for macrobeats)
- Circle, highlight patterns in music (look for same and different phrases, repeating patterns etc)

\*This is the last page of Keyboard Games A or B photocopied. I also have that page laminated for using dry erase markers

\*\*Available from the resource section on the Music Moves website

<https://www.musicmovesforpiano.com/for-teachers/resources/>

\*\*\*<https://keystoimagination.com/product/tumbling-key-signature-dice/>