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Shared Lesson - JEN 2013 K-8

FOCUS

“Chameleon” by Herbie Hancock

RESPOND: Listen

Chameleon

- Play “Chameleon” after the students are seated.
- As the class listens to the recording, invite them to clap on beats two and four.
- *The recording you just heard is an example of musical style called funk.*
- *Do any of you hear the influence of any other musical style? Look for answers like jazz, rock, gospel, and R & B.*
- *What is the term used to describe the practice of blending styles? Fusion.*
- *This unit will focus on the funk style and the mixolydian scale approach to improvisation.*

DEVELOP

- *Funk is a musical style developed in 50’s; this style has the elements of jazz, rhythm and blues, gospel, and rock fused together to create a rhythmic, soulful sound.*
- *Rhythm is the essences of funk. The ability of performers to play rhythmically together to create a groove is essential.*

CONCERT C

CHAMELEON

HERBIE HANCOCK

The image displays a musical score for the piece "Chameleon" by Herbie Hancock. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is labeled "BASS LINE" and features a 4/4 time signature. It includes a key signature of two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a common time signature. The bass line starts with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a sequence of notes and rests. Above the staff, there are markings for "B:MIN" and "E:7". The second staff is labeled "MELODY" and also features a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of two flats. It begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a sequence of notes and rests. The third staff is a continuation of the melody, starting with a measure number "14" and ending with a double bar line and repeat sign.

“Chameleon”

RESPOND: Listen, Analyze

- Play Chameleon again.
- *The form of this tune is AB.*
- *“Chameleon” has only two chords in the entire tune. The two chords are Bb minor 7 and Eb dominant 7th. This kind of chord progression is called ii-V and it is a very popular chord used in many jazz songs. Listen to how the chord changes color every two measures.*
- *Observe the phrasing of the melody by the horns and the accompaniment of the rhythm section.*
- *Did anyone hear the horn parts played in a swing style in this selection? No.*

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- An important aspect of the funk style is the use of even eighth and sixteenth notes.
- Let's sing the melody to Chameleon. Be prepared to have some of the kids sing the bass line as the melody!
- The bass line is so strong melodically, some consider Chameleon to have a double hook or two melodies. As you sing with melody with the kids use a non swinging syllable like "dee."

TIP: Emphasize the importance of even eighths and sixteenths notes when performing in the funk style.

IMPROVISE

RESPOND: Analyze

TIP: For the improvisation lesson the key of Chameleon was changed to C Major; this will allow for students to only use the white keys of the keyboard.

- We will begin to improvise using the **D minor pentatonic scale** over the ii-V chord progression.
- On the keyboard placed a piece of tape (sticky note or lable dot) on each note of the D minor pentatonic. Let kids know that they don't have to use all the notes; think more rhythm than notes.

Improvisation For ii - V Progression "Chameleon" D Minor 7 & G 7

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D Minor Pentatonic

2 3 4

FINISH

- Let's review what we have learned today:
 1. Chameleon by Herbie Hancock
 2. Funk style.
 3. D minor pentatonic scale.