

Recorder Romps

Virginia Music Educators Association, 2018

Clinician: Dr. Artie Almeida

Sponsor: West Music

Download the visuals for this clinic from my website: www.artiealmeida.com. Click on "Teacher Resources" then "Teacher Downloads," and scroll to the bottom for the folder titled "V18." **This folder will be removed on November 30.**

1. Crazy Frog Finger Busters

(Based on idea by Tami Mangusso)

Music: "Axel F" by Crazy Frog

- (1) Tap fingers against each other one at a time, then two, different combos, 1-2-3-4, etc.
- (2) Finger Push-Ups
- (3) At Interlude: Shake 'em out!
- (4) Steeples – one finger at a time
- (5) Pop fingers on and off of finger hole: 1, 1-2, 1-2-3, Thumb, then call name B-A-G-A-B
- (6) Shake out and flick!

2. Recorder Relay

(Source: Fun Foundations for Recorder, Volume 2 by Almeida)

Three students are each assigned one single pitch in a song (e.g., child one plays all the Bs, child two plays all the As, child three plays all the Gs). Perform songs while maintaining a steady beat, attempting to match tones as well. Gradually add all students in the class to relay. Songs to consider: "Hot Cross Buns," "Buns Cross Hot," "Mary's Lamb," and "Mary's Busy Lamb." Line up note signs G, A, B, C, D and do dictation. Add Low E.

3. Recorder Hike

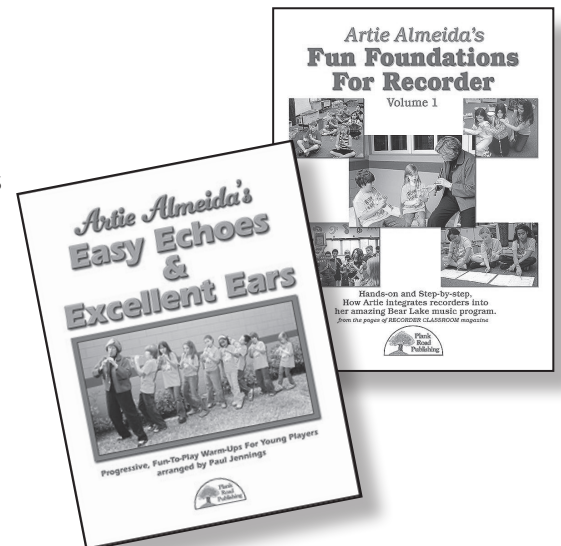
(Source: Fun Foundations for Recorder, Volume 1 by Almeida)

Use rhythm track. Children step off on a 4-beat whistle count. March 16 beats and freeze, facing the teacher. Three levels of tasks cards: letter names, notes on staff, easy songs, "Sit Down."

4. Resource Reading: Artie's Easy Echoes & Excellent Ears

(Book & CD published by Music K-8. Available from West Music.)

(These pieces are also in Fun Foundations for Recorder, Volume 1 by Almeida.)

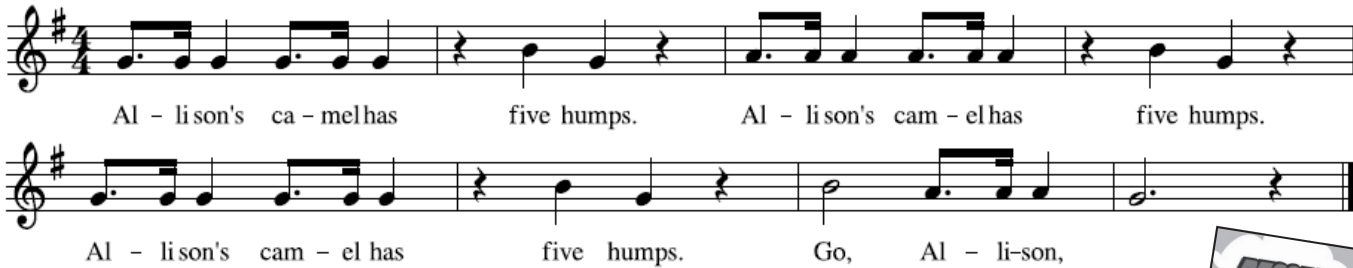


5. Silly Sequence (for memorization)

(Today I used the BAG song "Allison's Camel.")

Teach a piece of music, then begin the challenges:

- Can you play this piece with your eyes closed?
- Can you play this piece with your eyes closed and one hand behind your back?
- Lying down with your eyes closed and one hand behind your head (pillow)?
- Lying down with your eyes closed, one hand on the recorder, and one leg in the air?
- All of the above, while pumping bicycle pedals to an 8th note rhythm?
- Standing up . . . on one leg?



Al - lison's ca - mel has five humps. Al - lison's cam - el has five humps.
Al - lison's cam - el has five humps. Go, Al - li-son,

Suggested Resources for Basic Music Reading Skills

- **Recorder Express Interactive:** A tutorial for teaching or reviewing one note at a time
- **Artie's Easy Echoes and Excellent Ears** (Music K-8 publishing. www.musick8.com)
- **Fun Foundations for Recorder, Volumes 1 and 2** (Today's examples are from Volume 1.)



6. Study Buddies

(To emphasize the importance of the fingers and tongue working together.)

Kids pair up. The child on the right grasps the recorder by the foot joint with their right hand, puts their left hand behind their back, and says, "I am the Articulator!" The child on the left puts their right hand behind their back and reaches their left hand over to do the fingerings on their partner's recorder! They say, "I am the Fingering Specialist!" Perform a few tunes, then change jobs. Consider circle formation for the grand finale.

7. Buns Bonanza

Divide children into four groups, standing on each side of the room, facing the teacher in the middle. Group 1 plays "Hot Cross Buns," Group 2 plays "Buns Cross Hot" (Inversion), Group 3 plays High Harmony (D-C-B, D-C-B, B-B-B-B-C-C-C-C, D-C-B), Group 4 plays Bass Line (G-D-G, G-D-G, G-G-G-G, D-D-D-D, G-D-G). Hold the fermata at the end. Give a 4-beat whistle count-off and the children march to the next stations, changing parts. Continue until all students have played all four parts. Consider adding a small group in the center to play "Killer Buns!" (D1-LowD-G, D1-LowD-G, D1-C-B-A-G-A-B-C-D1-LowD-G). Invite your administrators in for a concert!



About the Clinician

Dr. Artie Almeida recently retired after 37 years of teaching in the public schools. She was the music specialist at Bear Lake Elementary School in the Orlando, Florida, area, where she taught 1,200 K-5 students. Her dynamic performing groups have performed for NAFME, AOSA, and on the NBC *Today* show. Look for *The Bear Lake Sound* in the upcoming music education advocacy documentary *Marching Beyond Halftime*.

Artie was chosen as Florida Music Educator of the Year and was also selected as an International Educator 2006 by the Cambridge England Biographical Society. She was a Teacher of the Year at the school level 6 times, Seminole County Teacher of the Year, Runner-Up for Florida Teacher of the Year, and was recently chosen as a University of Central Florida Alumni of the Decade. Artie is included in the publications *Who's Who in American Education* and *Great Minds of the 21st Century*.