

Hip Hop; It's Elemental



Kenrick Wagner & LeslieAnne Bird

Friday June 3, 2023

FMEA 10:30 AM

Tampa, Florida

An ostinato is a pattern that repeats

- Listen to this clip
- Isolate one ostinato
- Perform it with the body percussion, vocal sounds or found sound of your choice



What is Elemental Music?

Elemental music uses simple forms and compositional techniques drawn from the rhythms and patterns of children's language, rhymes and songs.

What is Elemental Music?

- The music is not intellectually based; all people by nature of their inherent musicality can participate in it...without the need for advanced technique or training.
- The music is strongly pattern based employing short, easily remembered patterns or rhythm, melody, harmony etc.
- (Elemental Music) can easily be broken down into its component elements, participants are encouraged to create or improvise.....
- The ability to create music spontaneously using intuition and basic knowledge of simple artistic tools....
- Complex note reading skills or highly developed fine motor instrumental technique is not necessary to participate...
- The simple, natural patterns of speech and bodily movement (are) the starting points for...music making.

- Steve Calantropio, ACEMM Website

Features of Elemental Music That Align With Hip Hop

- Forms are based on speech
- Call & Response and Question & Answer
- Voices, body percussion and found sounds
- Ostinato patterns
- Layered ostinatos
- Improvisation
- 'Simple' patterns are combined and layered to create and compose complex music
- Music springs from the collective



Hip Hop Housekeeping

Respecting Hip Hop in the
general music setting

Respect the Culture

- Give **CREDIT**
- Be **OPEN** to learning, it is ok if you don't know. Let your musicians know you are learning together
- Be **MINDFUL**
 - How do you respond to new musical experiences?
 - Do you label (good, bad etc.) or describe musical elements?
- Use descriptive words to **INSPIRE** new learning
- **ALL** music is **GOOD** music to someone

Hip Hop as Elemental Music in Action

- Find a team, name your team and share your (ostinato) **beats**
- Decide on one pattern **(beat)** that your team will perform. It could be one whole pattern OR parts of more than one pattern
- Choose ONE measure and add at least ONE rest
- Get ready to **SHARE**



Mix it Up!

- Play the beats (ostinatos) at the same time



Hip Hop as Elemental Music in Action

- Group Jobs – Choose Tribute – Pick a Card
- Decide on a Tonality – Group Decision
- Transfer elemental compositions to your team media
- Get ready to **SHARE**



Mix it Up!

- Play the beats (ostinatos) at the same time
- Quick Arrangement!
- Gather Round

"Intro Rap"

The Importance of identity and Affirmation in Hip Hop

Intro Rap



Begin on the 'and' of three

My name is

Everybody ((Heeeeyyy))

And I'm from.....

Everybody ((AAyyyeeee))

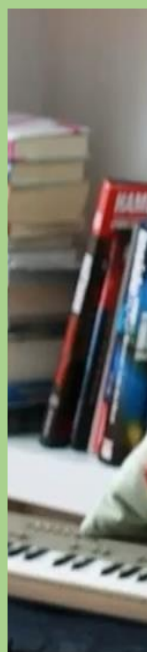
And the color of my shirt is.....

Everybody ((Wooooooo))

Connections to Elemental Music

1. Exploring rhythmic building bricks
2. Layered ostinatos
3. Small letter elemental form 'aab' of the Intro Rap
4. Capital letter elemental form of the final arrangement

Did I miss a connection?



ELEMENTS

ELEMENTS



DEE JAY

Dee Jay has become essential across all the platforms, using her to educate consumers the instrumental knowledge of songs, giving the listener an insight.



MC

MCs, like the Grandmaster Flash and Afrika Bambaataa, became the face of the movement, using their lyrical skills to educate and guide the listener.



BREAKDANCING

Breakers, known as b-boys and b-girls, used the streets and open spaces as their stage, developing a unique style of dance that became a symbol of the movement, representing the power of the streets and the power of the dancer.



GRAFFITI

But it's not just a visual component to the culture, graffiti has become a physical expression, and knowledge of the importance of understanding and respecting the history and roots of hip-hop.



KNOWLEDGE

The "knowledge" element in hip-hop culture is a multifaceted one that encompasses a wide range of topics, from the movement's early history to the social issues of the 1970s. Knowledge, often referred to as the "fourth element" of hip-hop, is about understanding and respecting the culture's history, traditions, and social and political significance.

ELEMENTS



DEE JAY

DJ Kool Herc is often credited as one of the pioneers, using two turntables to extend the instrumental breaks of songs, giving rise to the art of DJing.



MC

MCs, like Grandmaster Flash and Afrika Bambaataa, became the lyrical storytellers and poets of the movement.



BREAKDANCING

Dancers, known as b-boys and b-girls, used the streets and open spaces as their stage, developing a unique style characterized by intricate footwork, spins, freezes, and power moves. Pioneers like Crazy Legs and Rock Steady Crew played a crucial role in popularizing breakdancing and helped it spread globally.



GRAFFITI

Graffiti art added a visual component to the culture, breakdancing provided a physical expression, and knowledge emphasized the importance of understanding and respecting the history and roots of hip hop.



KNOWLEDGE

The "knowledge" element in hip hop culture is a crucial but often less emphasized aspect, rooted in the movement's early history in the South Bronx during the 1970s. Knowledge, often referred to as the "fifth element" of hip hop, is about understanding and respecting the culture's history, its roots, and its social and political significance.

Schemes



Scheming is a technique used in the writing process in Hip-Hop and Rap. The writer explores ways to capture the ear and engage the listener. Hip-Hop and Rap artists use **schemes**, **metaphors** and **rhymes**. Scheming builds basic rhythm and cadence on a beat when rapping.

Scheming can be practiced using any topic or theme.

Ice Cream Schemes

What is YOUR Favorite Flavor?



Ice Cream Schemes

- Use ice cream flavors to compose eight-beat rhythms in an elemental form. Be sure to leave SPACE!
- **Scheme Some Creams** – With a partner, say a flavor, partner says a flavor. Repeat until one partner slips up.
- Challenge level: No repeats
- Battle of the Cream Schemes – who will reign **"SU-CREAM"**

Break it Down

- What are the connections to elemental music?



Rap Similes

Similes are an entry level way to build **"punchline"** skills in rap which supports the writing techniques used to engage the listener. Practicing similes in a structured format builds skills with words and using creative writing techniques in crafting rap lyrics.



Choose one flavor for each blank

" I spend money like _____."

" I can make it rain like _____."

" I count nothing but _____."





Improvisation



7AG

7SG

r on

Break it Down

- What are the connections to elemental music?



We Appreciate You



A glowing pink neon question mark is centered in the background. The neon is bright and has a slight glow, contrasting with the dark background. The word "Questions" is written in white, sans-serif font, centered over the question mark.

Questions



About Your Facilitators

Kenrick Wagner

Commercial and Contemporary Music at the University of South Florida and a Hip Hop artist. He has over 15 years of experience as a music educator, performer, recording artist, author and producer.

Mr. Wagner's life's work is dedicated to providing top-quality youth programming and building a generation of leaders that will use creativity to learn and thrive.

rick@projectgametime.com

About Your Facilitators

LeslieAnne Bird

LeslieAnne Bird is a music and movement educator at University School in Shaker Heights, Ohio and teaches music education classes at Cleveland State University and Akron State University and is the content curator for the Teaching With Orff community. She has had the privilege to serve children and families from diverse backgrounds throughout her career. She is passionate about culturally relevant, respectful and responsive music education and being an effective facilitator for all her students. She is the owner and CEO of Three Little Birds Music Education Services LLC providing teacher training, coaching, consulting and music experiences for children and families.



Stay Connected

LeslieAnne Bird

Three Little Birds Music Education Services

- Coaching, Classroom Consulting, Professional Development, Workshops and Trainings, Guest Artist Appearances, Community Musicking and MORE!
- Three Little Birds Music Education Services LLC
- threelittlebirdsmes.com
- threelittlesbirdmes@gmail.com
- Facebook: Three Little Birds Music Education Services LLC
- Instagram: @3littlebirdsmes
- TikTok: @threelittlebirdsmes



Kenrick Wagner

Project Gametime

rick@projectgametime.com

www.projectgametime.com

IG: @projectgametime

