

TURN IT UP!

LISTENING TIPS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Introduce your students to a world of new music!

Try adding SoundMakers music into your daily activities, engage kinaesthetically with the work, or create a special music-focused listening experience.

Let the streaming music flow: SoundMakers.ca has music for all moods available at your fingertips. All you need is an internet connection and some speakers. Enjoy!

ADD NEW MUSIC TO THE MIX

Some of the sounds and genres featured on SoundMakers might be unfamiliar to your students' ears. Get them exposed to Canadian music in an informal way before introducing this music into your proper lesson time. Here are some ways to add some new music to your daily routines. Play our songs:

- Over the PA at the beginning of the school day or right before the end of lunch period
- During a work period in class
- As a signal to clean up, as a "5 minute" warning
- For a stretch/dance/movement break in the middle of the day or for DPA (daily physical activity) time
- During warm-up in the gym
- For welcome music as students arrive to your classroom
- While students respond to a "problem of the day" or write up homework answers on the board
- As a few seconds of intro music to introduce a student/group before a presentation/speech

SET THE SCENE

When you want your students' full focus to be on the listening experience, create a unique physical environment for a special lesson. Try:

- Dousing the overhead lights and providing alternate ambient lighting
- Breathing or yoga exercises before listening
- Sitting in different places or positions than usual for your classroom
- Taking your students to a new, found space for listening. A stairwell, outdoors, spread out in the auditorium, in the kindergarten room, school kitchen, etc.

LISTENING TIPS

Sometimes you will want to create a music-only environment when listening to music from our site. Other times, you may want students to engage with the music in a visual or kinaesthetic way as well.

Respond to the Music by:

Writing

- Write a story based on the music you hear
- Write adjectives describing music as you listen. Use these words to create a paragraph, poem, or short story

Visual Art

- Use different paint colours to represent different moods in the music; paint as you listen.
- Draw images to represent the story that the music is telling
- Leaf through magazines and create a collage inspired by the music
- Use modelling clay and mold it according to the musical 'directions'; change techniques as the music changes

- Create a graphic-novel panel or page inspired by the music

Music Literacy

- Try to identify all instruments and/or voice types heard in the composition
- Try to create your own creative graphic notation for all or part of the music. Try this with a sample clip you download from our site SoundMakers.ca
- Move to the music – divide into groups which represent different instruments or rhythms. Choreograph movements as individual groups then merge and perform a movement piece all together

Social / Dramatic

- Divide into pairs and have students move as mirror images of each other inspired by the music
- Act out the story of the music using mime
- Create tableaux based on images inspired by the music
- Create a light-show using coloured lighting gels and a flashlight or with your school's LX equipment

SOUNDMAKERS INFO & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Soundstreams has designed this series of Resources to introduce SoundMakers to educators and to offer ways to share this resource in the classroom. PDF versions of this guide and others are available at Soundstreams.ca

In-class workshops are also available through Soundstreams. Soundstreams composers and artist-educators can visit your school or organization for in-class workshop or for a staff learning session.

For more information or to provide us with feedback please contact: resources@soundmakers.ca or call 416-504-1282

This Tip Sheet was created by Jessi Linn Davies

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