



TEACHER RESOURCES
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Play: Duets – Building Musical Connections Together!

1. Discuss the Role of Duets:
 - o Ask students: How do duets create a special connection between musicians?
2. Prepare for Rehearsal:
 - o Ensure each student knows their part confidently before rehearsing with their partner.
 - o Consider having students record their parts, and send them to their partner for home practice.
3. Practice Timing and Rhythm:
 - o Use tools like a metronome or practice with different instruments (e.g., one student claps the rhythm while the other plays) to stay in time and strengthen rhythm.
4. Review the Music:
 - o Identify cues in the music, such as where each part starts or has rests, and create non-verbal signals (like eye contact or hand gestures) to communicate during the performance.
5. Rehearse:
 - o Start slowly to emphasize accuracy, then gradually speed up as students become more confident.
 - o Help students match tempo, dynamics, and articulation. Use a metronome or count out loud to maintain consistent timing.
6. Collaborate on Musical Ideas:
 - o Discuss and agree on musical elements like tempo, dynamics, and phrasing. Create a “dynamic map” outlining changes in volume and expression throughout the duet.
7. Prepare for Performance:
 - o Do complete run-throughs of the piece for other students.
8. Enjoy Playing with Your Partner:
 - o End the rehearsal with a fun improvisation activity. Allow each pair to improvise a short duet based on the music they’ve been working on. This will encourage them to feel comfortable experimenting and enjoying the collaborative nature of ensemble music.

For more information on how to enhance collaborative performance with technology, check out the article "[Must-Have Apps for Collaborative Pianists](#)" by Ana María Otamendi in Piano Magazine, Winter 2023, Vol. 14, No. 4.