

# Creativity Warm-ups

These warm-ups are designed to allow the student to manipulate music in their mind and to develop their capacity for object connective and spatial temporal reasoning.

1. Pentatonic chorale – using a major pentatonic scale (12356) have the ensemble improvise a chorale. Establish clear structure for them to improvise within
  - a. Pentatonic Scale (12356)
  - b. Must start on 1
  - c. Must end on 1,3, or 5
  - d. Must move from one note to the next slowly yet with purpose
  - e. Every musical line must have shape.
  - f. Try move when the people around you are not
  - g. Show gestures to stir musical choices
    - i. Add ons:
      1. Try a new tonality (major, minor, modal...)
      2. Try various instrumentations
2. Turn it modal – take any warm-up or chorale in the book, and try it in a new mode by altering scale degrees
  - a. **Dorian – lower 3**
  - b. Phrygian – lower 2,3,6,7
  - c. Lydian – raise 4
  - d. **Mixolydian – lower 7**
  - e. Aeolian – lower 3,6,7
  - f. Locrian – lower 2,3,5,6,7
3. Bouncing ball – Imagine a 1 inch diameter shinny new red bouncy ball. Through it into the air a catch it. Have the ensemble imagine with you then ask them to play a concert F to create the sound the ball would make when it bounces on the podium.
  - a. What about if you let it bounce and roll off for a while?
  - b. What if the ball was 1 foot in diameter?
  - c. What if you didn't have a ball, but rather you had a brick?
  - d. What about a feather?
4. Text painting – take a choral with known words or even just a great poem with good descriptors. What sounds are conjured when you think of those words?
  - a. Ex: *In the Bleak Midwinter*- what does “bleak” really sound like?
  - b. What would the piece sound like if we substituted in our “bleak” sound everything the chorale says “bleak”
  - c. What about “*frosty winds may blow*”?
5. Come up with your own – or better yet – ask the ensemble