

Listening and Practical Ideas for Sparkling Splashes & Smooth Water Grade 2 A1

Introducing the rhythm – the ‘Son Clave’

The ‘son clave (pronounced clahveh)’ pattern is a dance-like Latin rhythm which underpins lots of traditional Afro-Cuban music. You can listen to it introducing the first few bars of Bernstein’s America.

<https://open.spotify.com/track/5yAdXVdXZr9g5lcN76is9Q?si=ec1a09097c4f4630rhythm>.

Here is the rhythm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

X X X X X

Have a go at clapping it.

And here’s a famous older pop song which became famous and popularised the clave rhythm in the late 1950s; it became known as the Bo Diddley beat.

Bo Diddley by Bo Diddley

<https://open.spotify.com/track/2R7uUQ0Dehu80gsOcydQC9?si=afe0f70fe8b44aa8>

Have a go at clapping it with the song – and move around to it too..

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

X X X X X

The Tresillo

The first part of this famous rhythm is a Tresillo, effectively a triplet across four beats and it’s got a wonderful feel to it...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

X X X | X X X

The Tresillo in traditional and contemporary pop music

Your pupil may know this song which has a Tresillo rhythm right through it...and it’s exactly the same as Sparking Splashes...

Coldplay, Clocks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d020hcWA_Wg

Here is the tresillo in a Spanish dance composed by Bizet for his opera Carmen. They can clap the 3+3+2 groove to this.

<https://open.spotify.com/track/73SspxaPunDh3aCojPH0gJ?si=95852f92778045eb>

More traditionally...here's a classic Cuban track with a slow tresillo rhythm

<https://open.spotify.com/track/226kPFir9zckZ1iAT6zGY?si=f380d38eb7884822>

Water, fountains and music

Lots of composers have used water, fountains, rivers, seas and lakes as the theme for their compositions. Here are some examples. Use these to discuss how the composer and performers manage to convey the titles. Just play small excerpts.

Sparkling Splashes

Ravel: Jeux d'eau

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-QmwrhO3ec>

Liszt: Les Jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este

<https://open.spotify.com/track/OSIOpCh44Y0IXbsiLo0AEE?si=c3addaad644a4b2c>

with a video of the actual fountains here...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqhjKRUXEBO>

Einaudi: Le Onde (the Waves)

<https://open.spotify.com/track/3jPGemJdr95abo520vyvVk?si=908b9a43b6314392>

Smooth Water

Liszt: Au Lac de Wallenstadt beautifully played here by Nelson Friere

<https://open.spotify.com/track/1mliXgLdPNp0d9wccO485S?si=ab24b8bcc71b4ba2>

Composition

Encourage your pupil to compose their own 'watery' piece using some simple short repeated ideas and plenty of pedal, perhaps particularly focussing perhaps on pedal changes without a gap in the sound (legato pedal) and adding different articulation and colours too.

Encouraging the right 'touch' and tonal colour as well as technical and listening skills such as pedalling is so much easier when right and wrong notes are not a consideration.