

# Communication

In an ensemble communication and cooperation is an important foundation, and working with Eurhythmics can really support this. Many ensembles say that they after working with Eurhythmics have got a better communication and they have become more responsive to each other.

Many of the strategies used in Eurhythmics are based on various forms of communication. For example:

- **Group size**  
You alternate between groups of different sizes, and in this way practice different forms of communication, from working in pairs to the whole group working together.
- **Division into groups**  
You alternate between different constellations of the group. In this way everyone learns to work with everyone else and students receive different kinds of input through working with several different individuals.
- **Taking turns**  
Many exercises are based on doing things by turns, with one student leading for a while and then handing leadership over to the next student. This can be done in a given order, such as a circle or line, but it can also be based on the leader choosing his or her successor, in which case the group is jointly responsible for remembering who has been a leader already, so as to give everyone a chance.
- **Initiative and reaction**  
Some exercises are based on a 'free-for-all' initiative, for example as regards starting/stopping movement or music, changing the tempo, and so on. In this case students must be observant, with each one keeping an eye on all the others and trying to focus on the whole group all the time, so as to react to the change as quickly as possible.
- **Delegated leadership**  
The teacher should not lead unnecessarily but should instead delegate responsibility and leadership to the students. For example, make them responsible for finding the tempo themselves, for starting up a song or leading a ritardando, for choosing the key, and so on. This way, the focus of attention will shift from teacher to group.
- **Walking freely**  
*Walking freely* is a special form of communication in which students practice taking responsibility for themselves in relation to the group. They walk across the floor in freely chosen paths but at the same time they must adapt themselves to

others to avoid collisions. So you have to foresee where the others are heading and change your own route if you think that you will bump into somebody else. At the same time, care must be taken to ensure that the group is well spaced, that is, evenly spread out in the room.

Those strategies will in the long run effect the communication and cooperation within the group. Listening to each other and learning to work together in a group it is also an important part of developing democracy.