

Eurhythmics with a violin ensemble

Eurhythmics workshops can be a very good support in the work with an ensemble with young musicians. During the workshops they can train general aspects as pulse, rhythm, meter and phrasing. They can also work on their pieces in a different way and get an overview of the structure. In addition to the musical aspects, they also communicate in another way and learn to know each other better.

(Examples of this work can be seen in the videos.)

It is very fruitful when a Eurhythmics teacher and an Instrumental teacher can work together with the same group in the same room. Then they can see things from different angles and use different tools. They also focus on different things.

I have worked together with Päivikki Wikkala-Malmqvist for many years. She is a very good violin teacher. She teaches a good and functioning instrumental technique, and she is very interested in ergonomics. As a Eurhythmics teacher I can complement her teaching in different ways. She chooses the repertoire, and I can support the learning of those pieces, for examples difficult rhythms, phrasing, and structure. I can also work on general aspects such as pulse, meter, timing, legato/staccato, aural training etc.

In the videos, some examples of this collaboration are shown. Here we work with Con Grazie, a group of children 9-11 years old. To me this group is rather new. We have only met a few times and here you can see some “work in progress”.

Video – Show what you hear

Here we are working with notes on the floor (see Pathways under Objects).

First the teacher plays, and the students follow with steps on the mats. This is aural training and reaction.

Then we do this as a lead& follow exercise. the students take turns playing, and this also add improvisation and leadership.

Video – Objects

Here we are using balls, bouncing on the first beat in each bar. We alternate between working in pair and working in a big group, and also changing meter and tempi.

In this video we are also using the notes on the floor in another way. Here the students walk on the notes one at the time and the others follow and play the notes. This train the improvisation and leadership for the person walking, and awareness, reaction and “note reading” for the others.

Video – Choreography

Here we are working on choreographies to different pieces. First training to move in different directions 4 steps forward and 4 steps backwards. In some pieces they are walking while playing, changing directions on each phrase. In other pieces they turn in different

directions or lift their heels and do different steps. This lifting is good for the balance and posture.

We are working out the choreographies together. It is an important work for processing the pieces and for strengthening the collaboration.

Video – Ensemble

Here we are doing lead&follow exercise with the bows. The focus is to express the music, show legato and to let the movement continue without interruption. One person at the time is leading and the group follows. The leader gives a signal to the next leader when he or she is ready.

in addition to training leadership, improvisation, and collaboration, we also train attention, reaction, and concentration. And of course, the feeling of legato.



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