

Magic Bins Holiday Concert Challenge

Classroom & Remote Learning Edition

Challenge Briefing

Students will use the classroom magic (maker) bins to source materials and make their musical instruments. Students will play along to a holiday song of your choice using their instruments either as a class or in small groups. We encourage you to record the students playing and send it back to us to add to our Magic Bin holiday concert collection!

This is a great opportunity for you and your teaching team to get festive and innovative too! You can make your own music video to be submitted and shared.

Introduce the Challenge

Guidelines

- Make sure your classroom magic (maker) bins are well stocked with materials. If your classroom does not have magic bins, solicit recycled material and maker materials from fellow teachers and staff or have students bring materials from home.
- Decide if your students will work in small groups or as a classroom band.
- Select a holiday song for your students to play (classroom) or songs (small groups). We recommend playing the song multiple times for students before they begin to practice.
- Remember, this is all about fun, creativity, and collaboration!

Step 1: Inventing

Give your students 10 minutes to brainstorm their instrument idea and create a rough sketch.

Step 2: Making

Allow students 15-20 minutes to build their instrument out of materials from home or the magic bins. This is a great time to repeat the holiday song the students will play, so they continue to experience the tune.

Step 3: Storytelling

Lead the students in at least one song practice; we recommend two if you have time. Record students playing and having fun!

Instrument Ideas

- A ribbed can and a stick that rubs up and down the side
- Beans in jars as shakers
- Rubber bands stretched over a frame for a string instrument
- Tubes as pipes or kazoos
- Washers on a dowel (cap the ends) for percussion
- Popsicle sticks taped across a tissue box as a xylophone
- Pieces of construction paper rubbed together

Lesson Learned

Music and creativity are all around us, even in everyday objects. Students have engaged in creative thinking, observation, and maker skills by inventing new DIY versions of instruments. By completing the music play-along video, they have worked collaboratively with diverse instrument sections.