

Music Appreciation, Unit 3 Project: Create an Instrument!

Throughout this unit, we have discovered instruments from across the globe. You've learned about the characteristics of each instrument family, as well as four broader categories that address how an instrument makes sound through vibration. Now that you've learned these qualities, it's time to create your own instrument to join one of these families!

Directions:

- Review the qualities of instruments in the brass, percussion, woodwind, and string families. Then, review the four broad groups from sections F-I (membranophones, chordophones, idiophones, and aerophones.)
- Now, brainstorm a new instrument. Pretend you're going to create something new for the world of music. Just as Adolph Sax created the Saxophone to create a sound he imagined for his music (he wanted a cross between a brass and woodwind sound), you can create anything you like. It can also be an experiment, for example, trying to make a specific sound, creating speakers or comparing various instruments.
- For your instrument, think about answers to the following questions: What qualities would your instrument have? How would it sound? What is it made of, and how do you play it? What's unique about it?
- Once you've created an idea, get ready to create your instrument! You have a variety of choices to complete the rest of this assignment.
- Design a physical representation of your instrument. You can draw it, paint it, sculpt it, use any art medium you like. You can also create a drawing on the computer using a program such as Publisher or Photoshop, etc. This method may not actually produce an instrument that makes a sound (that's ok!). As long as you can somehow show the shape and appearance of your instrument, it works!
- Write a short story about your instrument in first person perspective. Describe how you came to invent your instrument, how did you assemble your materials, the creation process, etc. If you choose this method, your story must be at least two to three pages and use the 6+1 traits rubric to earn full credit. An additional rubric for this selection can be found in the unit folder.
- You can actually construct your instrument and attempt to play it!

You must create a written description of your instrument and how you decided to create it, what materials did you use, does it belong in a certain family, were there any other things you could have done, etc. Submit this portion of the assignment to the "Written Description" link in the folder. Then, submit your graphic/art/computer drawing/short story/audio file to the "Creative Component" link.

Remember that many cultures make instruments based on the materials around them and available construction methods. Use any resources you want to create an actual instrument. One fun approach would be to document the process and whether you were successful.

Student Response

December 19, 2013

Mrs. Hall

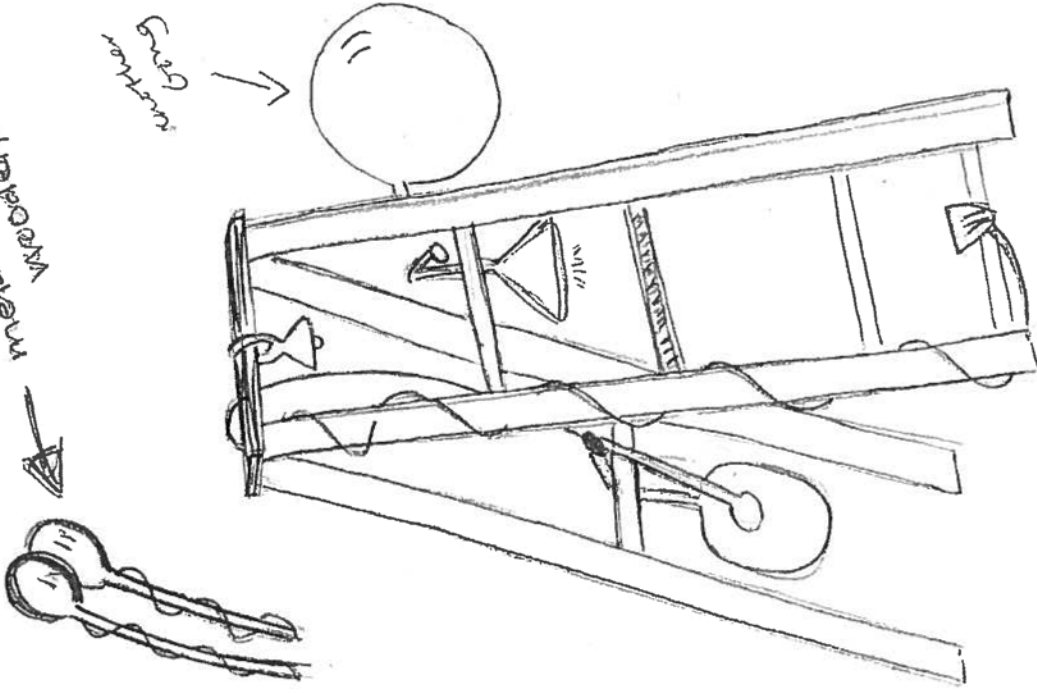
Lateral Tibetan Perquois (LTP)

This new instrument which I am introducing for the first time is all about creativity and how you play it. It comes from Tibetan backgrounds with the bell at the top, and Perquois means percussion in an imaginary language. This was established with the help of French and Tibetan ideas, in order to make a this ladder do more than the usual. It is made up of a standing ladder, which can be fitted to the player's "true" size, in order to be able to reach and play the great advantages of this instrument! The front side of the foundation (the ladder), has 4 steps. The one closes to the ground also has a paddle, then when pressed with the foot, it automatically (through the high-tech cords that run on the left side of the ladder to the Tibetan Gong) pulls the mallet and releases a deep sound. It is tradition to play the Gong before playing any other features of this LTP. On the third step, there are wooden ridges, which can be stroked with the metal handled wooden-top mallets (free of charge when buying this new instrument!). The sound given off can be changed if the side buttons are set up a certain way. The step closest to the top, has a mouth piece and a horn, that when played it gives off a BEAUTIFUL sound. The top of the ladder has a bell which can simply be played by hitting it, and the vibrato is typically about 4-5 seconds.

I believe that I could've constructed this new technological instrument. With the 21st century because focused on media and technology, the future instruments of this world will be more advanced as well. It's made up of simple every-day things, but it is better when bought! It is made up of mostly wood and metal. This instrument would belong to the "Wooden Percussion", since you can play many things at once, and it's made out primarily wood. The inspiration for this was just the evolving world. I wanted to show the absurd possibilities of a ladder, and that it could be used for new ideas and innovations! At my house right there, there is a lot of construction going on. A ladder is always in use, or has been these past couple of days. When I found out about this project, I was excited because ladders don't always have to be there for construction workers! I wanted to create something that was multi-task-able and different. The only disadvantage this instrument has is its size. The steps I took to create this was start with a plain object-the ladder. Next, I added simple features like a gong, or ridges on the 3rd step to make it more unique. As time went on, the ideas just came crawling out of the back of my brain, and soon this creation became the Lateral Tibetan Perquois!

Spreads metal
panels
wooden
metal hand
panels

Gas
cylinder



Lateral Tibetan
Perquis
(LTP)