

W-098

Creating Improvisational Pentatonic Music: Open to Everyone, Connect to the World

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Abstract

Our research explores the variety of possibilities that develop from using pentatonic scales together with participants from different cultural backgrounds. The pentatonic scale is one of several commonalities in world music. Pentatonic scales consist of simple five notes, and those notes can be combined in many ways. Pentatonic scales appear in music such as classical music, jazz, pop music (including J-POP and K-POP) , and traditional music in many region.

Pentatonic scales differ in terms of melodic movement and rhythm depending on the region and style. Thus, creating music using the pentatonic scale has the potential to broaden and connect musical experience from a global perspective, in addition to providing an opportunity to learn about the uniqueness of different musical cultures. The aim of the workshop is to practice improvisational musical creation using the pentatonic scale and exchange musical ideas through music with participants worldwide. These activities will allow a rethinking of the musical culture of one's own region and exposure to the connections and differences of musical cultures of other regions.

In this workshop, we first play a medley of different pieces using the pentatonic scale (Do, Re, Mi, Sol, and La) on various instruments and share the musical features with the participants. Later, participants improvise melodies in the pentatonic scale based on repeated accompaniment by marimba, koto, and tone chimes, among other musical instruments (including ICT tools). Participants are allowed to improvise by combining five notes of the pentatonic scale freely. Through this pattern, participants can try and explore the music they want to create in a relaxed atmosphere. This workshop corresponds to the fourth United Nations Sustainable Development Goal. Teachers worldwide, irrespective of their country or region, have the chance to create music with the pentatonic scale found in the music of one's own country or region.