

# Orff Jams

(8 Diatonic Orff Ensemble Pieces)

by Jane Lamb

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# Introduction

*Orff Jams* provides instrumental music to be played on Orff instruments by students in the middle school general music classroom. Each piece has its own teaching suggestions and suggested form, however, students and teachers may work together to create their own form. Here are some questions to answer when creating your own form for the piece:

1. Should all the instruments begin playing together?
2. Should we layer in the instruments? "Layer in" means to add the instruments in one at a time, however, you may choose to have two or more instruments enter together. If we layer the instruments in, what should be the order of the entrance of the instruments? How many measures should each instrument play when they enter?
3. When we have all the instruments playing together for example, in the A Section, how many times should we play each section? What will be the order of the sections? What dynamics should be played in each section?
4. What should the tempo of the piece be? Should we have any tempo changes in the piece?
5. Do we want to add any additional instruments to the piece?
6. How shall we end the piece? Should all the instruments stop together? Do we want to layer out the instruments until only one instrument is playing?

The beauty of playing Orff instruments is that you have instant success as soon as your mallets strike the bars correctly. Good mallet technique is essential for playing Orff instruments correctly.

## Mallet Technique

1. Pinch the mallets between the index finger and the thumb. Wrap the other fingers loosely around the mallet. The thumbs should be on the inside of the mallets and facing in to each other. The index fingers should be on the outside of the mallets. Make sure that your index fingers are not sticking out and resting on top of the mallets! If playing with your index finger on top of the mallets it will not produce a good sound.
2. Hold the mallets as if you are riding a bicycle and keep the tops of your hands parallel to the ceiling. The elbows should be out a little from the body in a comfortable position.
3. The wrists move up and down to bounce the mallets on the bars. The arms should not move up and down.
4. Mallets should strike each bar in the center to make a pleasing sound. Striking the bar too hard or in the wrong place could result in the bar flying off the instrument.
5. Play with two mallets, and alternate striking the mallets on the bars (left, right, etc.). Avoid playing with just one mallet. Alternate mallets, even on repeated notes.

YouTube video on good mallet technique: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxp2\\_v8L0ec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxp2_v8L0ec)

# Strawberry Jam

Jane Lamb

Allegro ♩ = 120  
A Section

Soprano Xylophone

Alto Xylophone

Shakers

Cowbell

Guiro

Conga Drum  
T= Tone  
B= Bass

Bass Xylophone

5 B Section