





# Prairie Winds Orff at NDMEA

## Session 2: Process to Performance

Presented by Christine Ballenger, Joan Eckroth-Riley, Gwen Hall,  
Taylor Heinzen, and Jennifer Russell

### Rhythm Building Blocks

Building blocks are the most commonly found combinations of rhythms in folk songs/children's chants. Below are the six most basic:



Today's work is in three, so we chose to use the following rhythms:



Keeping in mind the rhythms from "I want to play like a windy day," work to pick out four more measures to use to "complete" the idea. From rhythm, determine the melody. What do you want your tonal center, or "home note" to be? This piece can be either "E" or "A." What sounds better to your ear?

- When writing melodies, remember that there should be more step-wise motions and small skips, rather than leaps.
- It's okay to repeat ideas or pitches to make it easier to remember
- Emphasize the home note, and lead to it at the end

### Putting it All Together for a Performance:

1. "Hear the Wind Blow"
  - a. We learned to sing the melody
  - b. We began experimenting with movement in three
  - c. Add movement to the melody
  - d. Add in "B" sections of creative movement in between singing the melody with sound gestures or silence behind it
  - e. Add a drone (bordun) behind the melody to fill out the presentation (taken from pg. 84, #6, *MFC, Vol. I*, and adapted).
2. "Windy Sounds Speech Piece"
  - a. We spoke it and layered it
  - b. We added body percussion to the speech and layered it
  - c. We could change body percussion to unpitched percussion and layer it
  - d. We could add in "B" and "C" sections with improvisation between different instruments
3. "I Want to Play Like a Windy Day"
  - a. Perform our melody as composed (beginning written in *MFC, Vol. I*, pg. 79, #2)
  - b. Add improvised sections on barred instruments, or unpitched percussion in between our melody
  - c. Add movement to our melody
  - d. Create a rhythmic ostinato to play with the melody
  - e. Add a drone or bordun to play with the melody

Whatever you end up doing—have fun! Gather input from your students! Enjoy the creative process!

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## Want to learn more? Here's how!

- Visit our booth in the exhibit hall!
- Attend Prairie Winds Orff workshops and chapter shares! You do not need to be a member to attend!\*

Spring Chapter Workshop with Paul Cribari

April 7, 2018, 9 am – 4 pm, Red Trail Elementary, Mandan

Chapter Share

April 28, 2018, 10 am – 1 pm, Hoeven Elementary, Minot

Fall Chapter Workshop with Paul Weller

October 6, 2018, 9 am – 4 pm, Bismarck/Mandan Elementary TBA

\*Chapter membership does include all workshop registration costs (instead of paying per workshop at a higher rate), as well as opportunities to earn scholarships and continuing education credits.

- Attend Orff Level I at the University of Mary in Bismarck!  
Weekdays, June 4-15, 2018  
Visit <https://www.prairiewindsorff.com/umary-orff-levels.html> for more details
- Visit our website for more information: [www.prairiewindsorff.com](http://www.prairiewindsorff.com)
- Visit the American Orff-Schulwerk Association's website: [www.aosa.org](http://www.aosa.org)