

# CLAPPING LADDERS

Clapping Ladders helps students to develop their aural skills, rhythmic skills and learn scales. This activity can be done in a group lesson, ensemble or a private lesson.

Select a key/scale to work in. At first, choose a well-known scale, then when the activity is familiar, work on scales/keys that students are learning. The example key is D major.

One person claps a simple four beat rhythm, for example:



The students play up the selected scale using the rhythm that was clapped to them. See below:



More examples:



**Variations:**

Vary the length of the rhythms

Vary the tempo

Try the activity descending.

Use minor keys

Ask students for ideas

Ask the students if they found the activity valuable. Find out why or why not! It is important to engage students in thinking about and reflecting on their own learning. Having students talk 'about' music helps to develop their vocabulary and understanding of what they are doing. If they are doing this activity in peer groups, give students the opportunity to provide feedback to each other too!