

Teaching The Way We Learn: First Applications of Gordon's Music Learning Theory (MLT)

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INTRODUCTION

- Dr. Edwin Gordon (1927-2015)
- Marilyn Lowe: Author of Music Moves for Piano
- What is MLT? What is audiation?

PRINCIPLES

For each principle, ask yourself: "Based on this truth about learning, HOW can I best teach?"

#1: We Learn RHYTHM and TONAL audiation separately.

Rhythm Components: (1) Macrobeats, (2) Microbeats, and (3) Rhythm Patterns.

Meter: Duple, Triple, or some kind of combination.

Rhythm Syllables: Gordon Syllables

Rhythm Syllables		
MACROBEAT	MICROBEAT	DIVISION
Always: DU	Even Duple: DU DE /	Always: TA
	Even Triple: DU DA DI	
	Uneven: DU BE / DU BA BI	

Tonal Components: (1) Tonality and (2) Tonal Patterns.

Tonal Syllables: Moveable DO with a LA-based Minor

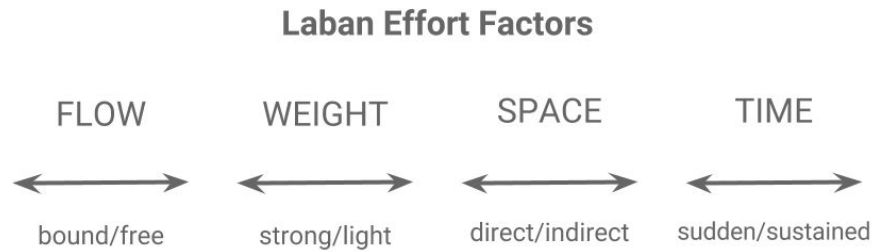
#2: We Learn Through Contrasts.

#3: We Learn Music Like We Learn Language.

- Listening
- Speaking (Singing songs and chanting rhythms)
- Thinking (Audiation/Improvisation)
- Reading
- Writing

#4: We Learn CONTENT within CONTEXT.

#5: We Learn Rhythm Through Movement.



CONCLUSION

1. Address RHYTHM and TONAL separately.
2. Provide contrasts.
3. Approach music like a language.
4. Be sure to establish context along with presenting content.
5. Get your students moving!

How do I get them audiating?

Download a digital version of this handout by visiting goo.gl/p1D4uT.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Reading

- [The Ways Children Learn Music](#) by Eric Bluestine
- How to Think Music by Harriet Ayer Seymour [PDF](#) or [Hardcopy](#)
- [Dr. Gordon's Keynote Address](#) from 2015 National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy
- [Quick and Easy Introductions: Introductions to MLT](#) by Edwin E. Gordon
- [U of South Carolina Library's Dr. Edwin Gordon Archive](#)

Repertoire Suggestions

- [Jon George](#)
- [Celebration Series](#) published by Frederick Harris Music
- [Little Peppers series](#) by Elissa Milne
- [Modes and Moods](#) by Robert Vandall
- [Ten Fingers A La Mode: Seven Modal Solos](#) by Arthur Frackenpohl
- [Additional repertoire recommended by Marilyn Lowe](#)

Rote Pieces Suggestions

- [Little Gems for Piano](#) by Paula Dreyer
- [Pattern Pieces](#) by Piano Safari
- [Music Moves For Piano, Keyboard Games Book A and B](#) by Marilyn Lowe

Song and Chant books

- [Music Play](#) by Valerio, Reynolds, Bolton, Taggart, and Gordon. An early childhood curriculum book that contains many activities that are good for any age student.
- [Experimental Songs and Chants Book One](#)

Websites and blogs

- [Gordon Institute for Music Learning \(GIML\) website](#)
- [Marilyn's Music Moves for Piano website](#)
- [Music Moves For Piano Facebook page](#)
- [The Improving Musician blog](#) by Andrew Mullen
- [Sound Educators blog](#) by Robin Giebelhausen
- [Mind, Muscle, Music, & Myth blog](#) by Ron Malanga
- [SingToKids blog](#) and [TpT store](#) by Jennifer Bailey
- [MLT easy as Do Re Mi blog](#) by Katie Burk
- [Growing Up With Music TpT store](#) by Natasha Sigmund
- [Wood Creek Music Wiki](#) and [TpT store](#) by Heather Shouldice
- [The Ways Children Learn Music blog](#) by Eric Bluestine

Teaching Materials

- [Pattern CD](#) designed for use with Music Moves For Piano method
- [Move It!](#) DVDs by John Feierabend
- [Do Re Mi](#) Cards by Music Mind Games
- [What Great Music!](#) CD from GIA Publications

Miscellaneous

- [YouTube videos of Dr. Gordon](#) on GIML YouTube Channel
- [Intro to Music Learning Theory \[Video\]](#) by Heather Shouldice
- [MLT \(Music Learning Theory\) Basics \[Video\]](#) by Robin Giebelhausen
- [Music Learning Theory month wrap-up on TimTopham.com](#)