Rhythms sync together. Chords align. Dynamic changes happen precisely. Multiple musicians are interacting in real time. When musicians successfully combine their efforts and skills in an ensemble setting—Wow! What a feeling!

Whether you’re performing in the Berlin Philharmonic, the local community chorus, or Ms. Vermeer’s Fourth Grade Semi-advanced Orff Ensemble, there’s a special thrill that comes from making music together as a team.

Making music successfully in any group setting requires ensemble skills. It’s difficult to learn those skills without playing in an actual ensemble. While most elementary music classes provide students with the opportunity to sing together, many teachers encounter hurdles when they want to assemble an instrumental ensemble. Perhaps you have faced a challenge due to a lack of instruments or difficulty finding suitable repertoire to fit your classroom’s particular collection of instruments.

Boom! Here’s your solution. This book is flexible.

**Flexible Instrumentation:** All of the multi-part rhythm patterns can be played with various combinations of instruments. If conventional classroom instruments are not available, there are options such as body percussion, found sounds, and buckets.

**Flexible Uses:** Employ the repertoire here to teach proper tone and technique, ensemble skills, rhythm-reading, or incorporate them into student arranging projects.

**Flexible Arrangements:** The rhythm patterns can easily be arranged into performance pieces of any length you desire, with any form you choose, and using any orchestration you want. There’s also a sample ensemble at the end of the book that will give you ideas on how to assemble a performance piece.

**Flexible Tempos:** There are no specific tempo markings, so feel free to experiment with different speeds to accommodate the abilities of your students. You will discover that some of the rhythm patterns will groove harder within certain tempo ranges, and you can listen to the recordings for a sample of a tempo where each one really cooks.
# Contents

How to Use FLEX ............................................................................................................. 4

**Three-part grooves**

- Dino-Q ................................................................. *rock* ............................................. 7
- Drop It Down .................................................. *half-time rock* ................................. 8
- BackBeat Driver ................................................ *rock* ................................................. 9
- Gazania ................................................................... *rock waltz* ................................. 10
- Kinda Krupa ...................................................... *swing* ............................................... 11
- Midnight Waffles .................................................. *shuffle* ........................................... 12
- Hit Hocket ................................................................ 13
- McIntyre's Own .................................................... *6/8 march* ......................................... 14
- Entada ..................................................................... 15
- Kick the Can .......................................................... *polka* ................................................. 16
- Indigo Irish ............................................................. *Celtic jig* ............................................ 17
- Mustard Soup ............................................................. 18
- Funky G ................................................................. *funk* .................................................. 19
- Lisa Latin ................................................................. *salsa 2-3* ............................................ 20
- High Step 69 ............................................................ *street beat / cadence* ......................... 21

**Four-part grooves**

- Easy Stroll ............................................................. *shuffle* ............................................. 22
- Cool Clyde ................................................................. 23
- Dill Pickle Ice Cream ................................................... 24
- Mango Monday .................................................... *fusion* ............................................. 25
- Sundown Coffee ...................................................... *12/8 groove* ................................. 26
- Electric Cookies .......................................................... 27
- Fiver Jiver ................................................................. *5/4 rock* ........................................... 28
- C. B. Mover ................................................................. *funk* ................................................. 29
- Purple Parade ............................................................ *street beat / cadence* ......................... 30
- Boom Bap Beat .............................................................. *rock* ........................................... 31
- Sly Tricky ................................................................. *half-time rock* ................................. 32
- Quarter Stomp ............................................................. *four on the floor rock* ...................... 33
- Bring the Candy ....................................................... *sixteenth rock* ............................... 34
- Mixto ........................................................................ 35
- Salsa Syd ................................................................. *salsa 2-3* ........................................... 36

**Make it an ensemble**

How to create an ensemble .......................................................................................... 37
- SuhWeet Beats ........................................................... *sample ensemble* ....................... 38

About the Author ........................................................................................................... 43
How to access your digital resources ........................................................................... 44
You don’t need an abundance of notes for a groove to rock. Just make sure everything lines up horizontally. But don’t make it too pretty—play with some attitude and let it rock. Experiment to find a tempo that will incite some head-bobbing and fist-pumping.

**Recording Instrumentation**
*Boomwhackers®*
Part 1: G4
Part 2: E4
Part 3: C3

See page 44 to access the recordings for this book.
The Swing Era (mid 1930s to late 1940s) produced many talented musicians who influenced the direction of jazz music. One of the most important Swing Era drum set players was Gene Krupa. Listen to “Birdhouse” on the album *Gene Krupa Plays Gerry Mulligan Arrangements* and you will hear Gene play the classic swing groove very clearly.

**Recording Instrumentation**

*Buckets*
- Part 1: side
- Part 2: rim
- Part 3: head

See page 44 to access the recordings for this book.