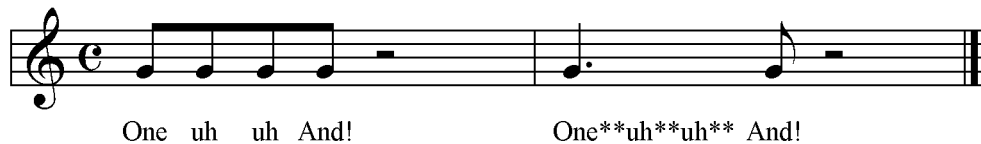


# Half~Past One

By Randall Standridge

Half-Past One is a beginning band rock piece designed to aid students in developing the rhythmic skill of recognizing and correctly playing the dotted quarter followed by an eighth note pattern. This rhythm is featured prominently throughout the piece.

I have found that the best method of teaching this particular rhythm skill, is to use a “breath” pulse. You might have the students say:



Make sure they are tapping their foot !!! I can not emphasize this enough. The students need to feel and understand the breath impulse.

Another musical fundamental this piece may be used for is to teach rock style. The students should play aggressively, punching each note that happens on the “and” at the end of a motive or phrase. This piece will also give the percussion section practice playing in rock style. Make sure each percussionist can identify the “Hi-Hat” and “Ride” by their name and sound. Explain to them what a “Drum Fill” is (example, ms. 26-33).

Even though the only dynamics listed are *f* (*forte*) and *mf* (*mezzo forte*), encourage your student's natural musical development in the following way. When you see this rhythm:



Have them play it like this:



This is a typical interpretation in rock and jazz. Play it for them. Model it every time they play. If you do this, you won't even have to mention it the next time. Your students will start to mimic your interpretation, and in the process, they will develop their own natural musical interpretation sense.

Have fun! Rock on!



**Randall Standridge** was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended college at Arkansas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education. During this time, he also studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor. Randall Standridge is currently the Director of Bands at Harrisburg Public Schools in northeast Arkansas, where he is in charge of band instruction for grades 6-12. He is also the director of United Vision Winterguard in Jonesboro, AR. He lives in Jonesboro, AR, and is in demand in the northeast Arkansas area as a composer, arranger, clinician, and designer.