

## ❖ Space

Musical space is the foundation for collaborative musical improvisation. Every time we create space in our music we create an opportunity for someone to create dialogue and conversation in our music.

Rests	Accent Notes	Texture	Other Dynamics
When we leave out notes we give different players and instruments an opportunity to complete our creative ideas.	Accent notes give variance and dynamic to our rhythms which opens up space in the music.	Add different textures to the groove to create the illusion of space by bringing depth to it. Play the same rhythm as someone else while using different modalities to achieve this effect.	Crescendos and decrescendos are another way to create space in the music without taking notes away. It gives players more opportunity to complement or contrast with their own dynamics.

Creating space when teaching rhythms also comes with a number of other benefits:

**Learning Rhythms:** When students are first learning, it can overwhelm them if you teach a rhythm without musical space. Add a measure of rest after a new rhythm to help the group start and stop together and give them time to reset before they play again.

**Regulate Tempo:** If you find your foundational rhythms speed up, cut them in half (one measure of playing and one measure of rest) and have students use their voice and body in the space to regulate tempo.

**Observe, Listen & Feel:** When you teach a rhythm or play group improv, have half the group play while the other half listens. This gives them the opportunity to use all their brain power to attune with what's happening around them.

**What to Say:** "Great music is as much about the space between the notes as it is the notes themselves." - Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner (Sting)

### **NUGGETS:**

**NO SPACE TO FEEL THE SPACE:** Sometimes the best way to feel space in a rhythm or groove is to contrast it with none. When learning a rhythm or playing a groove, give a group solo (group rumble) break to play as many notes as they want. When they come back, the space and groove will be more obvious.

**MIXING THE ROLLS:** Mix the tika tikas (sixteenth notes) with spacious notes (half notes). Too many rolls without space will crowd the musical canvas.