

Rhythmic Flute Band

Rhythmic Wind Band

by Geoff Warren

*Music activities for flute or wind ensemble
with modern jazz-rock rhythm section.*



Geoff Warren writes:

This project has grown out of my work as a travelling jazz flute clinician. Mostly I have worked with computer backing tracks, but on some occasions I have had the possibility of working with a live rhythm section: sometimes my own band, sometimes local musicians.

The material I have developed over the years, has always emphasised ensemble passages that aim to get the best out of the group sonority, whilst offering challenging rhythms to players more used to the “classical” repertoire, and leaving space for improvised soloing.

I like to work simultaneously in a “masterclass” situation up front with a soloist, whilst keeping the ensemble involved in playing thematic material and backing riffs.

I have used this format mostly with flute groups, and it is great to hear the flute choir sonority with the added rhythm section, but I am also happy to work with all types of wind instruments. I have, in the past, had the pleasure of conducting the BBC Radio Big Band

The project offers participants the experience of working with a rhythm section in a jazz or jazz-rock setting, and in getting to know the types of phrasing and articulation necessary in these contexts, as well as the chance to try soloing, improvising backing riffs, and responding to modern creative band directions.

The ensemble needs to be a minimum of six players. The repertoire is written to work for almost any combination of wind instruments. The arrangements allow for a mixed ability ensemble.



Formulas:

Three hour workshop

One day workshop

Longer workshop spread over 2-3 days leading up to a concert.

Options:

Workshop with computer backing tracks.

Workshop with live rhythm section. (these can be local musicians or Geoff Warren's own band).

Technical requirements:

Working with computer a P.A. system is needed to amplify the backing tracks.

Working with backing by live musicians, some backline may be needed, depending on the size of the venue and the number of participants.