



## How to use rhythm exercises for communication

Rhythm exists in all kinds of music. This can for example be how a melody is presented, and the way it is shaped is the key to how the listener can absorb it.

Rhythm also need articulation to be more accurate to the listener.

The melody also need some definite accompaniment, so it can flow over something that provides a stable ground. That will provide a base for the listener, so he or she more easli can relate to the music.

In my teaching experience at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm for over 30 years, I have an ear-training class where I deal exclusively with rhythms, polyrhythms, polymetrics and metric modulations.

We use a lot of different models to help the student to understand, and we explore those orally with some handclapping.

Therefore this seminar will most surely benefit from a group of people that participate in the different models that will be used, by singing and clapping.

I use a lot of syllables and ideas from the "South Indian" tradition, and then this can be incorporated in the students own musicmaking both playing and writing.

For a musician or student it's essential to know a lot about rhythms so they can use it in their own writing or as a tool in a more improvised context.

## Bengt Stark

For the last 33 years I have been a professional jazz drummer I Sweden besides being the main drum teacher at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. I play regulary with a lot of different groups here in Sweden, and I'm playing on at least 60 CD's. My last tour of Sweden (September) was with Dick Oatts and the year before that I did a tour with Jim Snidero and Ashley Pezzotti. [Here](#) is a sample from my latest recording.