

Observational Behavior Codes

Verbal Performance Instruction (VPI) – general or specific instruction(s) that are directed to the student(s); may refer to musical expression or technical aspects of playing the instrument

Nonverbal Performance Instruction (NPI) – any non-expressive gesture (e.g., head nod, hand gestures, pointing up or down) to indicate change in a technical performance behavior (e.g., change partial, improve intonation, play the next note of a scale)

No Instruction/Procedure (NIP) – teacher stops and restarts without providing any verbal instruction or comment other than where the ensemble should begin (e.g., “start at measure 3”); may follow verbal feedback, but lacks any instructional information

Repetition/Drill Instruction (RDI) – use of a single word or succinct instructional phrase only; never in combination with other verbal instruction; always in isolation (e.g., “again,” “one more time,” “do it again”)

Specific Verbal Feedback (SVF) – specific, verbal evaluations of one or more preceding performance trials that reference a particular musical or technical performance behavior (e.g., “great tone,” “intonation was better,” “slide is moving too slowly”)

Unspecific Verbal Feedback (UVF) – general, verbal evaluations of one or more preceding performance trials (e.g., “yeah,” “good,” “nice,” “ok,” etc.)

Nonverbal Feedback (NVF) – visual gesture to indicate positive or negative performance (e.g., thumbs up, “okay” gesture, shaking head in approval/disapproval)

Left Hand Expressive Gesture (LHG) – any musically expressive gesture in the left hand, independent of beat pattern that represents a musical concept(s) (e.g. cues, dynamics, phrasing, etc.)

Instrumental Modeling (INM) – teacher demonstrates an approximation of the performance using one or more instruments (e.g., piano, clarinet)

Vocal Modeling (VOM) – teacher demonstrates an approximation of the performance using his/her own voice (e.g., singing a stylistic motive, aural demonstration of accurate pitches); may be paired with visual model

Visual Modeling (VIM) – teacher physically demonstrates some musical or technical aspect of the performance (e.g., showing shape of a phrase with arm motion, mimicking drum stick height); may be paired with vocal model