

Name:

Date:

POLYRHYTHMS AND OSTINATOS

A **Polyrhythm** is the simultaneous use of two or more rhythms. That means that one person or a group are playing different rhythms at the same time, for example:

The image shows two musical staves in 2/4 time. The top staff, labeled 'Group 1' in blue, contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note, a pair of eighth notes, a quarter note, a quarter note, a pair of eighth notes, a quarter note, a pair of eighth notes, and a quarter note. The bottom staff, labeled 'Group 2' in green, contains: a quarter note, a pair of eighth notes, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a pair of eighth notes, a pair of eighth notes, and a quarter note. Both staves end with a double bar line and repeat dots. A yellow box highlights the end of the notation with an arrow pointing to the text 'Repeating bar'.

Group 1 always plays the **blue part** and the Group 2 the **green part**.

At the end of the rhythm there is a repeating bar which means that each group will constantly repeat its rhythm. This constant repetition of a rhythm is called **Ostinato**.

Activities

1

Relate the definition with their name:

- Constant repetition of a rhythm
- Two or more rhythms played at the same time.
- End bar with two dots
- Polyrhythm
- Repeating bar
- Ostinato

2

How many times is this polyrhythm repeated (ostinato)?

Group 1

Group 2

1

2

3

3

Relate with arrows the audio with the right rhythm:



