

# FOCUS ON FORM

Arizona Music Educators Association  
Clinician: Artie Almeida, Ed.D.

## **1. Rondo Alla Turca (W. A. Mozart): Animal Form Listening Packs**

**Source:** *Parachutes, Ribbons and Scarves, Oh My!* (Book by Almeida)

**Focus:** Rondo Form, Motive, Melody Direction

**Materials:** A set of animal responders for each student. A larger set for the teacher's leader responders.

**Process:** Distribute responder packages to students. Students listen to the piece and use responders to illustrate the melodic direction and form of the piece (following along with the teacher's motions). In a subsequent lesson, encourage students to move throughout the room like the animals used in the listening lesson. Form: ABCBAB Coda. (A=snake, B=horse, C=bumblebee, Coda=Birds). In a subsequent lesson, review this fabulous piece using the YouTube video of it being performed on Boomwhackers by the group Plastik Musik. J (There are numerous other great videos available!)

## **2. The Wild Horseman (Schumann) – An Epic Stick Horse Adventure!**

**Source:** *Parachutes, Ribbons and Scarves, Oh My!* (Book by Almeida)

**Focus:** AABA Form.

**Materials:** Stick horses, Finger puppets if available

**Process:** Use horsey finger puppets to demo first time. Divide into two groups. Establish a barn on each side of room. One group rides for A, the other for B. Trade jobs. The last time, all children ride on each A Section and let horses graze on the B.

## **3. The Wellerman – A Kickball (or Basketball) Routine**

**Source:** Almeida

**Focus:** Steady Beat, Form, Phrases, Non-Traditional Instruments

**Materials:** Recording of The Wellerman, performed by **Nathan Evans**, Downloadable Projectable Visual of Kickball Routine, Kickballs or Playground Balls for the instructor and each student.

**Process:** Refer to the detailed Directions & the Form Visual of the piece in the Projectable Visual.

## **4. Surfin' USA: (The Beach Boys): A Kickball/Basketball Routine**

**Source:** *Percussion Parade* (Book by Almeida)

**Focus:** Form, Note Values, Non-Traditional Percussion Instruments

**Materials:** A kickball or basketball for each student

**Process:** I teach this lesson over the course of two class sessions, which adds a nice comfort level for the students. Emphasize safety with the kickballs (not throwing above head due to light fixtures, etc). Practice each section, spending extra time on the Trade-Catch-Hold and Hand Jive segments. If students are not comfortable sitting on the kickballs (or rubber playground balls) for hand jive, instruct them to remain standing, placing the ball between their feet. Basketballs also work well for students who are not petite.



## **5. La Raspa: Stretchy Band Circle Routine**

**Source:** Almeida

**Focus:** Rondo Form, Mariachi Music, Long & Short Phrases, Steady Beat, Quarter Notes & Rests

**Materials:** *Stretchy Band, Pop Toobs*, Recording of *La Raspa*: There are numerous recordings of *La Raspa* on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, etc. This fabulous, extensive Rondo recording is by Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan.

**Process:** Refer to the downloadable visual for movement details of each section of the rondo. For added aural support, add *Pop Toobs* (mounted on horizontally-held drumsticks) on quarter notes of each A Section. Beware uneven phrases in E Section!

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