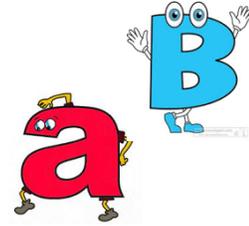




# FOCUS ON FORM

San Angelo ISD, Texas  
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 by showing the YouTube video of it being performed on Boomwhackers by the group *Plastik Musik*. ☺ (There are numerous other great videos available!)

## **2. Trepak from The Nutcracker (Tchaikovsky) “Fish Sticks”**

**Focus:** Rondo Form. This delightful activity was shared with me by a dear friend and colleague, Suzette Swallow. She graciously allowed me to share it with you and your students. Decorate a large length of butcher paper for the “ocean” and use clip art fish, mounted on sticks, for the A Section “actors.” I feature two students wearing shark hats for the B Section, although for many years I used an inflatable shark toy mounted on a dowel. Students kneel behind the ocean and use the fish sticks to match the A Section melody of *Trepak*. The shark(s) prowl the waters on the B Section and fish & sharks both join forces for the exciting coda! In the classroom setting I have half of the students perform for their peers, then change jobs. In a holiday performance setting (the parents go *WILD* for this piece!) I selected a number of students to perform and we presented the piece under black light. Use black paper for the ocean and paint your sea tableau with florescent paint or chalk. Consider *large* fish (18” X 24”), painted in florescent colors to maximize the black light experience.



## **3. Surfin’ USA: Kickball Routine**

**Source:** *Percussion Parade* book by Almeida)

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

**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.

## **4. The Wellman – A Kickball (or Basketball) Routine**

**Source:** Almeida

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

**Materials:** Recording of *The Wellman*, 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 and the Form Visual of the piece, provided in the Projectable Visual.

### **5. *La Raspa*: 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**.

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

**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!*



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

**Focus: AABA Form.** From *Parachutes, Ribbons and Scarves* by Almeida. **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, other B. Trade jobs. The last time, all children ride on each A and let horses graze on the B.

### **7. *Stickman!***

Stick Figure Mirroring Activities: Individuals, Partners, Trios, Quartets.  
Created by Marie Boyett. I share it with you with her permission. ☺



Dr. Artie Almeida has 38 years of public-school teaching experience and was the music instructor at Bear Lake Elementary in Orlando FL, where she taught 1200 K-5 students. Her dynamic performing groups have performed for Florida Music Educators Association, American Orff-Schulwerk Association, Music Educators National Conference, Walt Disney World, American Express International, many educational organizations and on the NBC Today Show. For the last 35 years she has traveled to provide elementary music symposia to teachers around the United States, as well as in Canada, Singapore and Taiwan. Each year she presents workshops for many state music education conferences, Orff chapters, school districts & education organizations.

Artie's accolades include Florida Music Educator of the Year, Runner-Up for Florida Teacher of the Year, Seminole County Teacher of the Year, International Educator 2006 (Cambridge UK Biographical Society), school-level Teacher of the Year six times, and University of Central Florida Alumni of the Decade. Artie is included in the publications *Who's Who in American Education* and *Great Minds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

Artie was an adjunct professor of music education at the University of Central Florida for 34 years, the saxophone instructor at Valencia State College, the music and movement instructor at Seminole State College and a saxophone performer & teacher. She also performs early music with *Ars Antiqua* & the *Halifax Consort*.

Artie's 31 music education publications celebrate innovative delivery systems for K-5 music instruction.

**Her themes in teaching are “Heavy Academics: Delivered Joyfully!” and  
“Where There’s Passion, There’s Retention!”**