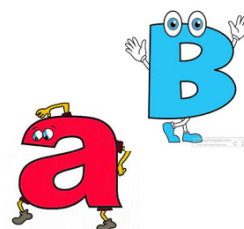




# FOCUS ON FORM

Utah Music Educators Association, 2024  
Clinician: Artie Almeida, Ed.D.



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

**Source:** *Parachutes, Ribbons and Scarves, Oh My!* (Publication 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=sake, 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. The Wild Horseman (Schumann) – An Epic Stick Horse Adventure!

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

**Focus:** AABA Form

**Materials:** A stick horse for each child. Horsey finger puppets if available. Or, consider a homemade version, with two different horse pictures, mounted on popsicle sticks. You can do this just as a teacher demo or consider making a set of two popsicle-stick horses for each child. **My puppets are the “Mary Meyer Trotters Horse Tippy Toes Finger Puppets,”** which are available via a Google search.

**Process:** Use two different horsey finger puppets to demo first time, with one horse moving on the A Sections, the other on the B. Invite the children to join you with their fingers simulating the horses. Divide the class into two groups and distribute stick horses. Establish a “pretend” barn on each side of the room, having students stand in two straight lines facing the center. Add some fun with pretend eating of snacks, getting a drink from a bucket, pawing the ground with excitement about the ride, etc. One group will gallop throughout “the pasture” (center of the room) on the A Sections, while the other group gallops on the B (this is a very short section so prepare the children for a quick return to their side of the room!). Then have the groups trade jobs. For a final time through this very short piece, allow all the children to ride on each A and let horses graze on the B (in the pasture . . . aka center of the room). Remind them to listen closely to the music to make it back to their own barns before the last note of the piece! ☺

## 3. Surfin’ USA: A Kickball (or Basketball) Routine

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

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

**Process:** Display score and talk through it with the students. Demonstrate each motion, and then select a student partner to help you show the moves for the tossing section. Emphasize safety with the kickballs (not throwing above head due to light fixtures, etc.). Pass out the kickballs and briefly review those motions before performing entire piece. Practice each section thoroughly, 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 the hand jive, instruct them to remain standing, placing the ball between their feet. Basketballs also work well for students who are not petite. Depending on your room space and ceiling height, you may wish to teach this lesson outside or in a multipurpose room.



#### **4. The Wellerman: A Kickball/Basketball Routine**

**Source:** Almeida

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

**Materials:** Recording of The Wellerman, **performed by Nathan Evans** (this score was designed for that specific recording of the song), Downloadable Projectable Visual of Kickball Routine, Kickballs or Playground Balls for the instructor and each student.

**Process:** Emphasize safety with the kickballs before beginning. Refer to the detailed directions and the Form Map of the piece, provided in the projectable visual. Demonstrate short portions of each section before beginning. Pass out kickballs **after giving directions**. As the year progresses, ask the students to create small changes and/or additions to the routine.

#### **5. La Raspa: Stretchy Band & Pop Toobs**

**Source:** Almeida

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

**Materials:** Recording of La Raspa: There are numerous recordings of La Raspa on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, etc. The fabulous, *extensive* rondo recording I'm using in this clinic is performed By Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan.

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



Artie Almeida, Ed.D., recently retired after 38 years of public-school teaching. She was the music specialist at Bear Lake Elementary in the Orlando, Florida area, where she taught 1200 K-5 students. Her dynamic performing groups have performed for NAfME, AOSA, Walt Disney World, American Express International and on the NBC Today Show. Artie's accolades include Florida Music Educator of the Year, Runner-Up for Florida Teacher of the Year, International Educator 2006 (Cambridge UK Biographical Society), school level Teacher of the Year six times, Runner-Up for Florida Teacher of the Year & University of Central Florida Alumni of the Decade.

Artie was an adjunct professor of music education at the University of Central Florida, saxophone instructor at Valencia State College, Music & Movement instructor at Seminole State College and a saxophone performer and instructor. She performed early music on historical wind instruments with Ars Antiqua and the Halifax Consort. Artie presents music education symposia throughout the world and her 32 elementary music resource books celebrate innovative & dynamic delivery systems for K-5 music instruction. Artie's theme for teaching young children is ***Heavy Academics: Delivered Joyfully!***