

Umbalayo - © Davies-Splitter & Splitter

Musical Features

- * **Tonality** - Mixolydian
- * **Form** - Rondo - Section A (8 bars), B (12 bars), A (8 bars), C (12 bars), A etc
- * **Style** - African type chant
- * **Instrumentation** - African Djembe (drum), shaker, triangle and vocal accompaniment
- * **Meaning** - made up nonsense words!
- * **Ostinatos** – Vocal and instrumental ostinatos can be played or sung over section A
- **Melodic Improvisation** - improvise using notes from D mixolydian mode over sections B, C etc

Suggestions for use:

Section A

- * **Say** - speech echo the words half a bar at a time such as 'Umbalayo', 'Cumbalai', 'Umbalayo', 'Cumbalai', 'Hey hey oh', 'Cumbalai', 'Hey hey oh', 'Cumbalai'.
- * **Sing** - echo sing the song with the recording
- * **Move** - walk around to the beat of section A singing the echo.
- * **Dance** - create a dance for section A and improvise movements in section B and C

Accompaniment

- * **Say** - say 'Doong, Doong, Doong, Doong, Doong' etc whilst clapping/tapping etc the rhythm
- * **Sing** – listen then sing the 'Doong' ostinato/accompaniment in 3 parts together
- * **Say** – listen then say the ostinato 'Chika chika' etc whilst tapping the rhythm on your chest
- * **Put together** –these 2 ostinatos
- **Transfer to instruments** – 'Doong' ostinato to xylophone, glockenspiel or recorder and the 'Chika' ostinato to guiro or similar

Improvisation

- **Group Work** - divide the class into small groups comprising non tuned instruments, tuned instruments, spoken scat and sung scat. Ask each group to rehearse an improvisation for 12 bars over section B, C etc.

Extension

- * **Discuss** - form of the piece; 'scat' words; instrumentation; style
- * **Compose** - compose new nonsense words for section A. Create a graphic notation score for section B, C etc indicating pitch, dynamics and tempo.
*Compose a new melody based around the mixolydian mode

See the 'Boomerang Jam' Teacher's Manual for the music score and notated ostinato parts

