

# 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, gong, xylophone, glockenspiel, recorder, etc
- \* **Meaning** - made up nonsense words!
- \* **Ostinatos** – Vocal and instrumental ostinatos in sections A and B
- **Melodic Improvisation** - improvise using notes of the Mixolydian mode in sections B, C etc

## Suggestions for use:

### Section A

- \* **Say** - speech echo the words 'Cumbalai', 'Hey hehe', 'Umbalayi', 'Umbalayo', 'Umbalayo'
- \* **Sing** - echo singing
- \* **Move** - walk
- \* **Dance** - dance movements in section B and C

### Accompaniment

- \* Sing 'Umbalayo' etc whilst clapping/tapping etc the rhythm of the accompaniment in 3 parts together
- \* Sing 'Umbalayo' etc whilst tapping the rhythm on your chest
- \* Sing 'Umbalayo' etc whilst tapping the rhythm on your chest
- **Triangle** - 'Umbalayo' ostinato to xylophone, glockenspiel or recorder and the 'Chika' ostinato to gong.

### 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

