



Smithsonian Global Sound

Ooooh, the Oud

A Global Sound Lesson

Designed by: Amy C. Beegle

Suggested Grade Level: K-2 3-5 6-8 9-12

Musical Culture(s): Arabic (Iraq, Andalusia, Turkey)

Musical Knowledge/Skills:

- Listen to and identify sound of the oud, find and play rhythmic pulses on body percussion and instruments
- Create movement to show rhythmic pulse (2+2+3)

General Knowledge/Skills:

- Observe performance practice of the oud as it is used in several parts of the world by various musicians

Materials from Smithsonian Global Sound:

- Video: Rahim AlHaj, Iraqi oud virtuoso, records “Rast”
http://www.smithsonianglobalsound.org/sgs_live.aspx
- “Taqism on the ‘Oud-Andalusian Style” from *Melodies and Rhythms of Arabic Music* (FW08451)
<http://www.smithsonianglobalsound.org/trackdetail.aspx?itemid=16525>
- “Laz Bar (Black Sea Fisherman's Dance)” by George Mrgdichian from *Now Sounds of the Middle East* (MON71709)
<http://www.smithsonianglobalsound.org/trackdetail.aspx?itemid=36810>

Instruments:

- various small drums (hand drums, goblet drums, etc.)

National Standards: 2, 6, 8, 9

Experiences:

*Video Viewing/Listening:

Watch video of oud virtuoso, Rahim AlHaj in recording studio with percussionist Souhail Kasper.

While listening and watching, tap a pulse. Allow children to move, tap, or “air play” while listening.

*Discussion

Identify the instrument as the oud, played by an Iraqi virtuoso and composer who is recording his new CD on Smithsonian Folkways.

Discuss what makes the oud similar and different from other stringed instruments you might see in a recording studio.

Discuss the history of the oud: 5,000 years old, it came to Europe as a result of the Crusades, and was developed into the lute often heard in Renaissance music.

*Listening

Listen to “Taqism on the ‘Oud-Andalusian Style” and try to find a pulse to tap. Is there a regular pulse?

*Discussion

Compare this piece the music heard on the video. Sometimes there is no pulse in this form of music, called *taqsim*. It is an improvised form of music in which the performer plays in a particular mode that tells him or her the scale, melodic patterns, and rhythmic structure to use. He or she can then determine how to change certain parts to make it more interesting and exciting for the audience.

*Listening

Listen to Laz Bar (Black Sea Fisherman's Dance)

Find and tap the pulse (listen to the lowest pitches you can hear)

Note briefly that this music is from Turkey and the main melodic instrument is the oud.

*Playing

Play this “low part” on body percussion, then on a pitched instrument (Bass xylophone) while listening again.

*Moving

Step with the “low part” (2+2+3)

In small groups, create a “Black Sea Fisherman’s” dance to show the pulse and rhythmic flow

Extensions:

Learn to play a Middle Eastern melodic mode on a ukulele or guitar and rhythmic modes on hand drums.

Create music using these modes as structural guidelines.