

Al-Bustan Camp - July 2013

Music Teacher: Hafez Kotain

Music Curriculum



In percussion this summer, campers learned the names of notes and names of various instruments. They learned how to read sheet music for Arab percussion and how to understand the 'rhythm tree,' a diagram that breaks down the speed of the different notes. Not only did the campers acquire knowledge of Arabic and drumming, they also learned general music etiquette such as proper posture - with and without the drum or *doumbek* - and how to take care of their instrument.

In singing class, campers learned a medley of Umm Kulthum songs that included excerpts from "Anta Omri," "Ghanni-li," and "Habibi Yes'ed Awqatu." In teaching the students these songs, we made sure to emphasize correct Arabic diction and the meaning of the lyrics. The campers were given lyric sheets in Arabic with translation and transliteration in order for them to fully grasp and understand the meaning. See lyrics sheet below. In preparation for their culminating performance, keyboard player Joseph Mamari visited the camp to help the campers learn the pitch and accompany them in singing.

Here are clips of original Um Kulthum recordings that the students listened to as they learned the short chorus parts of each song:

***Ghanni li shwayyi shwayyi* (start at 0:11)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZI2-jbxbVs>

***Anta Omri* (start at 1:23)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLkEVtax0rA>

***Habibi Yes'ed Awqatu* (start at 18:10)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md74mGN2OWA>

Suggestion for free time: FREEZE DANCE GAME

Objective: Re-enforce sense of rhythm and the beats students have learned while still allowing them to let loose, burn some energy, and have fun.

1. Play the *doumbek* for the students as they dance around the room.
2. As soon as the music stops, the dancing stops too.
3. Anyone caught laughing moving, etc. is out. Then, they can try to (without touching) distract the frozen campers .

From “Ghaneely” composed for Um Kulthum by Zakria Ahmad for the film “Salamah” (1944), lyrics by Mahmoud Bayram El-Tunsi

sing to me a bit
sing to me and enchant me
sing to me a bit
sing to me and enchant me
sing to me, sing
and enchant me

ghannī lī shwayyī shwayyī
ghannī lī wa khud ‘aynayyī
ghannī lī shwayyī shwayyī
ghannī lī wa khud ‘aynayyī
ghannī li ghannī
wa khud ‘aynayyī

غَنِيْلِي شِدْوِيَّةٌ شُدْوِيَّةٌ
غَنِيْلِي وَ حُودٍ عَيْنِيَّ
غَنِيْلِي شِدْوِيَّةٌ شُدْوِيَّةٌ
غَنِيْلِي وَ حُودٍ عَيْنِيَّ
غَنِيْلِي غَنِيْلِي
وَ حُودٍ عَيْنِيَّ

From “Anta Omri” composed for Um Kulthum. Lyrics by Ahmad Shafiq Kamel and music by Mohammad Abdul Wahab

you are more precious than my days
you are more beautiful than my dreams
take me to your sweetness
take me away from the universe
far away, far away, you and I
far away, far away, alone
with love, our days will awaken
we spend the nights longing for each other

yā aghlā min ayyāmī
ya ahla min ahlamī
khudnī lihanānak khudnī
min alwujūd wābī dñi
ba‘id ba‘id anā wantā ah
ba‘id ba‘id wahdinā
‘alhubbi tis-ha ayamma
‘asshuq tinām layālīnā

يَا أَغْلَى مِنْ أَيَّامِي
يَا أَحْلَى مِنْ أَحْلَامِي
خُدْنِي لِحَنَانِكَ خُدْنِي
مِنَ الْوُجُودِ وَابْعِدْنِي
بَعِيدَ بَعِيدٍ أَنَا وَأَنْتِ
بَعِيدَ بَعِيدٍ وَحَدِينَا
عِ الْغُبِّ نَضْحَى أَيَّامَنَا
عِ السُّهُوقِ تِنَامَ لَيَالِينَا

From “Habibi Yes’ed Awqatu” composed for Um Kulthum. Lyrics by Mahmoud Bayram Al-Tunisi Music by Zakaria Ahmad

tonight is the night of festivities
the night is happy
tonight is the night of festivities
the night is happy

illela ‘id illela
‘addunia sa‘id illela
illela ‘id illela
addunia sa‘id illela

الليِّلةُ عِيدُ الليِّلةِ
عَا الدُّنْيَا سَعِيدَ الليِّلةِ
الليِّلةُ عِيدُ الليِّلةِ
عَا الدُّنْيَا سَعِيدَ الليِّلةِ