

Perpich Arts Library



Dance, Drumming and Storytelling

Influenced by, but not limited to, African cultures around the world

Dance

African Dance

Kariamuw Welsh

Introduces the history, religious significance, national styles, and basic steps of traditional dance from Africa. The varied cultures of Africa and their respective dances are explored, along with the effects that colonialism had on the art form. (Secondary Non-fiction Book)

Dance and Culture: An Introductory Reader for Middle and High School Levels

Wendy Oliver

Explores dances from around the world, their influence in the United States and the importance of preserving these dances for future generations. Each article reflects a personal perspective and a brief overview of a topic. (Secondary Non-fiction Book)

Jingle Dancer

Cynthia L. Smith, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu

Jenna, a member of the Muscogee, or Creek, Nation, borrows jingles from the dresses of several friends and relatives so that she can perform the jingle dance at the powwow. Includes a note about the jingle dance tradition and its regalia. (Picture Book)

Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles -- Think of That!

Leo & Diane Dillon

This simple book for young children has the added bonus of describing the life of a groundbreaking African-American tap dancer. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson was one of the most popular entertainers of the 1920s-30s. In the Dillons' graceful paintings of old New York, he dances from page to page to the tune of a toe-tapping rhyme. (Picture Book)

Salsa

Lillian Colon-Vila, illustrated by Roberta Collier-Morales

Rita, a young girl living in New York's El Barrio, describes the Afro-Caribbean dance music, salsa, and imagines being a salsa director. Rita learns about salsa dance steps and musical instruments such as the piano, timbales, congas, and brass. (Picture Book)

Stepping

Marshall Blackwell & Norman Whiteburn

A modernized version of what is known as the African gumboot dance, stepping was adopted by African-American fraternities and sororities, eventually evolving into an essential element of the black college experience. A high energy montage of dance, jazz and military movements. (DVD)

Drumming

Beat of the Drum

Richard Hersley

The drum is the heartbeat of Mother Earth; to beat the drum is to match the heartbeat. As we sing our songs to the drum we "talk to the spirits". From rock and roll to electronic to traditional music, this is an upbeat, fast-paced program as four "high profile" Canadian First Nations musical performers and songwriters are profiled. (DVD)

Conga Drumming: A Beginner's Guide to Playing with Time

Alan Dworsky & Betsy Sansby

This book will teach any musician, step by step, how to play the conga drum using authentic Afro-Cuban rhythms: calypso, bomba, conga, rumba and bembé. The clear text, life-like illustrations and simple charts make learning to play these beats easy, even for non-musicians. All 175 rhythms in the book are on the included CD. (Non-fiction Book and CD Set)

Drums of Passion: The Invocation

Babatunde Olatunji

Nigerian-born drummer Olatunji sought to retain the "live" sound heard in this digital recording by capturing both the individual instruments and the collective sound of 11 percussionists and seven vocalists. The tracks feature unique spiritual invocations to Yoruba deities played on traditional instruments, such as the ngoma, ashiko, and djembe. (CD)

Guinée les rythmes du Mandeng

Mamady Keïta

An instructional DVD teaching and demonstrating the djembé, a traditional percussion instrument of Guinea. The videos break down each part of each rhythm and allows you to watch each part be looped while the other parts are muted. In addition to the rhythms, this DVD features technique, history and photographs. (3 DVDs)

Let Your Voice Be Heard! Songs from Ghana and Zimbabwe

Abraham Kobena Adzenyah

This collection includes nineteen game songs, story songs, and multipart songs from the vocal traditions of the Akan people of Ghana and the Shona of Zimbabwe. Words in Akan and Shona, also printed as texts with English translations. (Non-fiction Book and CD Set)

Making Music

Ann Sayre Wiseman & John Langstaff

Shows kids how to make rhythm, string, wind, and keyboard instruments from all kinds of ordinary household items and natural materials. The projects range from simple castanets made from walnut shells to a complex zither built from wood. Teaches children how to make music with their homemade instruments. He starts with rhythm games and then moves on to teaching kids such music basics as tempo. (Non-fiction Book)

Making Musical Instruments with Kids: 67 Easy Projects for Adults Working with Children

Bart Hopkin

This is a book of easy-to-build, low-or-no-cost musical instruments that can be constructed by children under adult supervision, or, in some cases, by older kids without supervision. Examples of the instruments include washtub bass, driftwood marimba, thumb piano, bucket drums, and flowerpot bells: simple stuff, but stuff kids can have fun with. (Non-fiction Book and CD Set)

Mamady Keïta: A Life for the Djembé -- Traditional Rhythms of the Malinke

Uschi Billmeier

Explains the ethnic meaning of approximately 60 traditional rhythms of the Malinké, in addition to a selection of modern ones. Also gives practical advice for teaching and learning these rhythms with the help of a simple notation. Each rhythm contains complete notation for djembe and dunun parts, and cultural context for drum and dance. (Non-fiction Book and CD set)

Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey

Luke Cresswell & Steve McNicholas

Performers of the stage show Stomp travel world-wide performing with local percussion and dance groups, making rhythms using ordinary objects. It introduces audiences to percussion groups as different as Timbalada of Brazil to the Kido drummers of Japan, from the American Indian Dance Theater to the Jackie Robinson Steppers of New York. (DVD)

Rhythms of Life, Songs of Wisdom: Akan music from Ghana, West Africa

Roger Vetter

This CD includes 13 tracks for a total of one hour and eight minutes of recordings. The performances from central Ghana feature the singing and chanting talents of everyday people accompanied by water drums, rectangular frame drums, side-blown horns and brass bands. Includes descriptions of instruments, a bibliography and discography. (CD)

Storytelling

African Folktales

Paul Radin

A selection of eighty-one folktales from the many cultures south of the Sahara. Includes tales of the Hausa, Ashanti, Bantu, and Zulu. The narratives range from the mythical tale to the humorous anecdote, and are divided into four categories: The Universe and Its Beginnings, The Animal and His World, The Realm of Man, Man and His Fate. (Secondary Non-fiction Book)

African Folktales: Traditional Stories of the Black World

Roger D. Abrahams

A collection of 95 tales from the region south of the Sahara Desert--stories from over 40 tribe-related myths of creation, tales of epic deeds, ghost stories and tales set in both the animal and human realms. Reading the stories lacks the full impact of hearing them told aloud. The stories feature numerous illustrations. (Secondary Non-Fiction Book)

Beat the Story-drum, Pum-pum

Ashley Bryan

Here are five Nigerian folktales, retold in language as rhythmic as the beat of the story-drum, and illustrated with vibrant, evocative woodcuts. Each story is meant to provoke a moral lesson or highlight unique perspectives depicted through the tradition of storytelling in Africa. (Upper Elementary Non-fiction Book)

The Cow-tail Switch, and Other West African Stories

Harold Courlander

This collection of 17 folktales includes tales that are humorous, ironic, and fantastical. They reveal customs and philosophies of West Africa, and feature many animals of the region. Storytellers will find a rich source of material and rhythm. Notes on the stories and a glossary are included. (Upper Elementary and Middle School Non-fiction Book)

Dhegdheer: A Scary Somali Folktale

Marian A. Hassan, illustrated by Betsy Bowen

The Hargega Valley is terrorized by the Dhegdheer, who eats up everyone that crosses her path. She orders her daughter to build an empty village to lure travelers and soon a grieving widow and her son stop for water. The daughter attempts to hide the travelers, but the Dhegdheer can smell them, and starts to search, hut by hut. (Picture Book)

Folktales from the Gambia: Wolof Fictional Narratives

Emil A. Magel

These translations of 45 Wolof folk-tales are organized according to themes. The stories reveal much about the Wolof people's relationship with their environment, their beliefs, social values and customs. They capture the poignancy, humor, and meaning of their original, oral form. (Secondary Non-fiction Book)

The Lion's Share/Qayb Libaax: A Somali Folktale

Said Salah Ahmed, illustrated by Kelly Dupre

This handsome, bilingual Somali-English picture book tells a stark animal fable about the misuse of power. "The lion's share is not fair," is the message, and there's no reversal that shows the weak tricking the powerful. Dramatic linoleum block prints, painted with acrylic and gouache in shades of brown and red, illustrate the story. (Picture Book)

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale

John Steptoe

A traditional Zimbabwe folktale about a man with two daughters the deceitful, selfish Manyara and her sister Nyasha, who is good and generous. When the King sends for a bride, he chooses Nyasha after appearing to her disguised as a snake and a young boy. A modern fable of pride going before a fall. (Picture Book)

Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story

Angela Shelf Medearis, illustrated by Daniel Minter

When they are given the seemingly impossible task of turning thread into gold, the seven Ashanti brothers put aside their differences, learn to get along, and embody the principles of Kwanzaa. Includes information on Kwanzaa, West African cloth weaving, and instructions for making a belt. (Picture Book)

Sheekoxariirooyin Soomaaliyeed/Folktales from Somalia

Ahmed Artan Hanghe

A pioneering work in the documentation of the Somali treasure of folktales. The book contains a selection of folktales in Somali with translations into English. These tales are mostly created by a pastoral community whose world outlook and social ideals are reflected in these fables. (Secondary Non-Fiction Book)

Songs and Stories from Uganda

W. Moses Serwadda

Presents thirteen story songs, work songs, lullabies, and game songs with accompanying stories retold from Ugandan folklore. Songs are in Luganda, with phonetic pronunciation, English translation and an explanation of the story or purpose of each. The CD includes every story and song. (Non-fiction Book and CD)

The Time of the Lion

Caroline Pitcher, illustrated by Jackie Morris

This beautiful father/son tale explores an unusual friendship and a child's rite of passage. It creates a metaphor for the magic of childhood, a time when fantasy is reality, and lions are our friends. The beautiful artwork is the perfect complement to this tale, capturing the power and mystery of the African Savannah. (Picture Book)

The Travels of Igal Shidad/Safarada Cigaal Shidaad: A Somali Folktale

Kelly Dupre, illustrated by Amin Amir

Igal Shidad, a well-known figure in Somali folklore, searches the drought-stricken land looking for a better home for his family, asking Allah for guidance. He eventually discovers that his prayers have been answered without even realizing it. (Picture Book)

Wiil Waal: A Somali Folktale

Kathleen Moriarty, illustrated by Amin Amir

Wise Somali leader Wiil Waal asks men to bring him the part of a sheep that symbolizes what can unite men as one. A clever folktale, with a father who reluctantly follows his daughter's advice and has astounding results. (Picture Book)

The Perpich Library collection includes the books listed in this bibliography. Please contact the library to become a FREE member and to reserve materials, receive reference assistance, or to arrange group and individual visits.

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