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CD Contents

The CD included in this product is enhanced and contains both audio tracks and digital files to assist you in your preparation and presentation of *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*. The CD will play audio files like any regular CD in your CD player. To access the digital files, you will need a PDF reader such as Adobe Reader, which you can download for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. Once you have installed a PDF reader, simply insert your CD into your computer's CD drive. When prompted, click on **View Files** to see all of the amazing resources available to you.

Digital Files Included on the CD

- Reproducible Student Script*
- Cast of Characters*
- Reproducible Lyric Sheets
- Production Checklist
- Prop Templates

*Starred items are compiled in the Classroom Teacher Pack file.

Digital Templates† Included on the CD

- Program Template
- Poster Templates (in various sizes and color options)
- Parent Letter
- Save the Date Notice
- Reminder Notice
- Volunteer Letter

†See page 43 for more information on how to use these templates.

Preface

After years of producing grade-level performances for large numbers of students, we are excited to share our work with you. Classroom teachers drove our initiative to create grade-level performances, and we responded by using well-known stories and writing our own music. At first one or two classes were interested in working with us, but once the other classes saw the productions, they wanted to be involved too. Pretty soon, we were presenting plays with entire grade levels involving over 120 students!

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears is based on a West African *pourquoi*, or “why,” story. A *pourquoi* story provides a fanciful explanation for a common occurrence—in this case, why mosquitoes buzz around our ears! According to this tale, one day, long ago, a family of Agamas (lizards) were cooling themselves in the shade of a berry bush when Mosquito decided to play a trick on them. The resulting, disastrous chain of events following Mosquito's trick will lead the audience to understand why, to this day, mosquitoes buzz in people's ears. (He is asking if everyone is still angry at him.) Our rendition of the story is told through narration, dialogue, and songs featuring both piano and Orff instrument accompaniment.

Whether your stage is in a gymnasium, a “cafetorium,” or an actual auditorium, *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* is designed so that the instruction can take place in your normal music room setting, during your regularly scheduled classes. We work closely with our grade-level classroom teachers, having them choose the narrators and leads, but you could hold auditions during your music classes and choose them yourself. We also invite parents to get involved with the scenery and costumes, which can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. Images and templates are included in this resource to assist you in creating the costumes and props. There are also lots of wonderful bonus features on the included CD, so be sure to check it out!

We hope you and your students enjoy *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*.

On with the show!

Brian Hiller
Don Dupont

Production Notes

There are three speaking roles for individual students and lines for up to twenty narrators. You will need five classes (or groups). All students should sing all of the songs. Each class (or large group) is assigned to one of the animal families (Agamas, Vipers, Duikers, Mandrills, or Sunbirds). The animals were specifically chosen for their authenticity and for the fact that they actually interact with one another in the wild.

If you choose to perform the movements and accompaniments, the class (or group) assigned to that animal should come off the risers and move to their respective positions. (See “Adding the Optional Movements” on page 41 and the piano and vocal scores and Orff arrangements for more information.)

The entire production should last about thirty minutes.

Abbreviations

DS: downstage

DSR: downstage, right

DSL: downstage, left

DSC: downstage, center

FWD: forward

BWD: backward

CW: clockwise

CCW: counterclockwise

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

Pre-set: All students, except Narrators 1–3, stand on the choral risers behind a closed curtain. Narrators 1–3 stand DSR at the microphone. A small group of dancers stand behind the curtain in two rows, in staggered formation. The instrument players for “Funga Alafia” are at their instruments.

NARRATOR 1: Funga alafia, ahshay, ahshay! Welcome everyone to our play! In Africa, children are told stories that explain why common things occur.

NARRATOR 2: These are called *pourquoi*, or “why,” stories. Today, our story answers the question, “Why do mosquitoes buzz in people’s ears?”

NARRATORS 1, 2, 3: Do you know why?

NARRATOR 3: So join us on our journey to the African forest. Funga alafia, ahshay, ahshay!

As the introduction of “Funga Alafia” begins, the curtain opens, Narrators 1–3 go back to their spots on the risers, and the dancers step forward.

Funga Alafia

*Traditional Folk Song
Arranged by Brian Hiller and Don Dupont*

Funga alafia, ahshay, ahshay.
Funga alafia, ahshay, ahshay!

Pronunciation Guide

Funga	alafia,	ahshay,	ahshay
<i>fuhn-gah</i>	<i>ah-lah-fee- ah</i>	<i>ah-shay,</i>	<i>ah-shay</i>

Roughly translated as a song of welcome, peace, and gratitude.



Optional Movements

Formation: The students on the risers bounce at the knee to the beat. The dancers perform the following movements in two lines, staggered.

Section	Movements	Beats
A	Step (FWD), step, step, together. Press hands up to the quarter-note pulse.	4 beats
	Step (BWD), step, step, together. Press hands down to the quarter-note pulse.	4 beats
	Step (FWD), step, step, together. Press hands up to the quarter-note pulse.	4 beats
	Step (BWD), step, step, together. Press hands down to the quarter-note pulse.	4 beats
	Turn (CW), stepping to the beat, leading with extended right arm.	8 beats
	Turn (CCW), stepping to the beat, leading with extended left arm.	8 beats
B	Jump in place a quarter of a turn to the right, and then bounce at the knee for seven beats with hands extended in front and palms up.	8 beats
	Jump in place a quarter of a turn to the right, and then bounce at the knee for seven beats with hands extended in front and palms up.	8 beats
	Jump in place a quarter of a turn to the right, and then bounce at the knee for seven beats with hands extended in front and palms up.	8 beats
	Jump in place a quarter of a turn to the right, and then bounce at the knee for seven beats with hands extended in front and palms up.	8 beats
A	Step (FWD), step, step, together. Press hands up to the quarter-note pulse.	4 beats
	Step (BWD), step, step, together. Press hands down to the quarter-note pulse.	4 beats
	Step (FWD), step, step, together. Press hands up to the quarter-note pulse.	4 beats
	Step (BWD), step, step, together. Press hands down to the quarter-note pulse.	4 beats
	Turn (CW), stepping to the beat, leading with extended right arm.	8 beats
	Turn (CCW), stepping the beat, leading with extended left arm. Students end with both hands extended in front of them, palms up.	8 beats

Funga Alafia

Traditional Folk Song
Arranged by Brian Hiller and Don Dupont

$\text{♩} = 120$

V
Fun - ga a - la - fi - a, ah - shay, ah - shay.

SX

AX

4/4

4/4

BX
BM

CBB

V
Fun - ga a - la - fi - a, ah - shay, ah - shay!

SX

AX

4/4

4/4

BX
BM

CBB