

# Mari Schay's RHYTHM-O-RAMA!

Featuring Pop Hits, Movie Themes, and Showtunes

## Arranged for Classroom Percussion Instruments

Foreword . . . . .	2
About the Author . . . . .	2
Choosing Music and Assigning Parts. . . . .	3
The Rehearsal Process . . . . .	4
NAfME National Standards . . . . .	7
Last Thoughts . . . . .	9
<b>Pop Hits</b>	
1. Best Day of My Life ( <i>Recorded by American Authors</i> ). . . . .	10
2. Count on Me ( <i>Recorded by Bruno Mars</i> ). . . . .	14
3. Firework ( <i>Recorded by Katy Perry</i> ) . . . . .	20
4. Party in the U.S.A. ( <i>Recorded by Miley Cyrus</i> ). . . . .	26
<b>Movie Themes</b>	
5. Everything Is Awesome ( <i>Awesome Remixx!!!</i> ) ( <i>from The LEGO® Movie</i> ). . . . .	33
6. Gonna Fly Now ( <i>from Rocky</i> ) . . . . .	40
7. Moment of Truth ( <i>from Smallfoot</i> ). . . . .	44
8. Star Wars (Main Theme) ( <i>from Star Wars</i> ) . . . . .	48
<b>Showtunes</b>	
9. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang ( <i>from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang</i> ). . . . .	52
10. I Got Rhythm ( <i>from Girl Crazy</i> ) . . . . .	56
11. Little Shop of Horrors ( <i>from Little Shop of Horrors</i> ) . . . . .	60
12. Mamma Mia! ( <i>from Mamma Mia!</i> ) . . . . .	64



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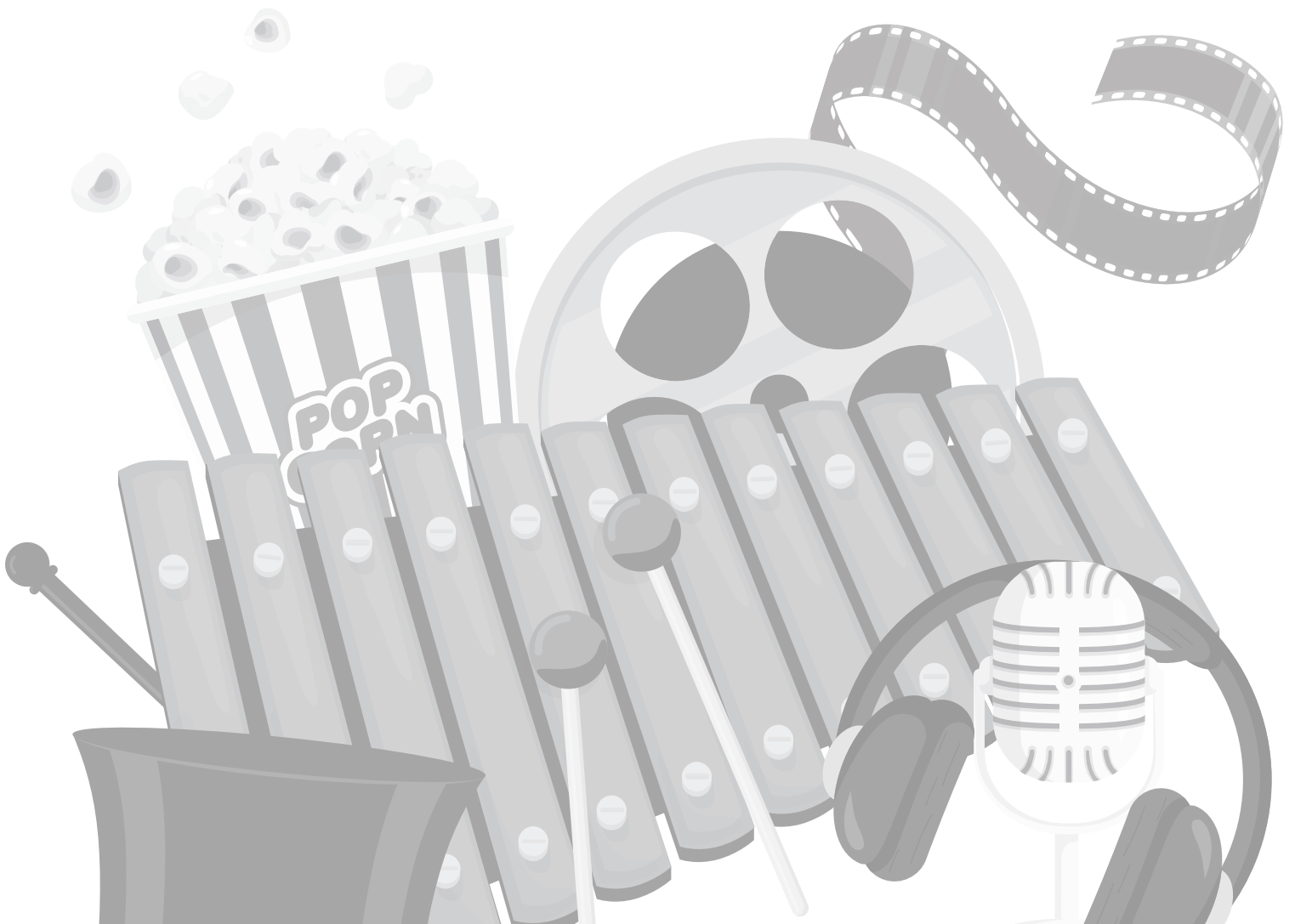
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**SOLOS** (NOT INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS, BUT EACH PART)

- Alternate between individual parts and the full ensemble until each part has played a solo.
- Give each part a solo, one after the next (without the full ensemble playing between solos).
- Start with one part and build by adding one additional part at a time.
- Create solo pairings, such as just sopranos and altos, altos and basses, sopranos and basses, etc.
- Let unpitched percussion play the last solo to kick into a new element (new tempo or new dynamic, for example).
- During solos, add “bops” on the first beat of each measure. Every part plays the first note of each measure, creating a unison chord to support the solo.

**CODA**

- Layer out low to high or high to low.
- Finish with everyone playing the melody in unison.
- End with a roll on the tonic chord.
- Fade out to silence.
- Repeat the last phrase or measure three times.



**CHALLENGES**

Interplay of rhythms: This song uses several call-and-response patterns in which the sopranos “say” something and the altos “reply.” This means the two sections will need to be confident about their various parts before they can really put it all together. Knowing the original version of the song will help with locking in the somewhat intricate rhythms because your students will be able to sing the song through their mallets.

**REHEARSAL STRATEGIES**

There are several distinct sections in this song. Work on them one at a time, and don’t move on until each one is in your students’ muscle memory. As you start a new section, ask the students to determine if there is new material or familiar material. For example, the alto response in measures three and four comes back several times with different soprano calls, almost like a persistent interjection.

# 1. Best Day of My Life

recorded by American Authors

Arranged by  
MARI SCHAY

Words and Music by ZACHARY BARNETT,  
JAMES ADAM SHELLEY, MATTHEW SANCHEZ,  
DAVID RUBLIN, SHEP GOODMAN, and AARON ACCETTA

**INTRO**

Moderately (♩ = ca. 108)

The musical score is for the Intro of 'Best Day of My Life' in 4/4 time, marked 'Moderately' with a tempo of approximately 108 beats per minute. The score is arranged for a vocal ensemble and a percussion ensemble. The vocal parts include High Soprano, Low Soprano, High Alto, and Low Alto. The instrumental parts include Bass, Shaker, Tambourine, and Drum. The score consists of four measures. The High Soprano and Low Soprano parts have a call-and-response pattern. The High Alto and Low Alto parts have a response pattern. The Bass part has a simple rhythmic pattern. The Shaker, Tambourine, and Drum parts have a consistent rhythmic pattern.

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**CHALLENGES**

Syncopated bass/alto parts in the A section: With a little practice, your musicians will get this part down. Practice counting and clapping or tapping the rhythm in unison, then with the unpitched percussion, and then add the unpitched percussion and soprano parts until the groove settles.

**REHEARSAL STRATEGIES**

This song gets easier with each section, so consider starting with the C section, then adding the B section, and then the A section. As a reward for mastering the song, let your musicians shout “Party in the U.S.A.” at the end!

# 4. Party in the U.S.A.

recorded by Miley Cyrus

Arranged by  
MARI SCHAY

Words and Music by CLAUDE KELLY,  
LUKASZ GOTTWALD, and JESSICA CORNISH

**A** Rhythmic pop (♩ = ca. 92)

HIGH SOPRANO

LOW SOPRANO

HIGH ALTO

LOW ALTO

BASS

SHAKER

TAMBOURINE

DRUM