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 \textit{doumbeke} - 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:

\textbf{Ghanni li shwayyi shwayyi} (start at 0:11)
\url{http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZI2-jbxbVs}

\textbf{Anta Omri} (start at 1:23)
\url{http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLkEVtax0rA}

\textbf{Habibi Yes'ed Awqatu} (start at 18:10)
\url{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 \textit{doumbeke} 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.
The night is happy
Tonight is the night of festivities
Tonight is the night of festivities
Tonight is the night of festivities
Tonight is the night of festivities

From "Habibi Wesal Amri" composed for Umm Kulthum, Lyrics by Mahmoud Bayram. Al-Tunisi Music by Zakaria Ahmed

We spend the nights longing for each other
With love, our days will awaken
Far away, far away, you and I
take me away from the universe
You are more beautiful than my dreams
You are more precious than my days

From "Ara Omm" composed for Umm Kulthum, Lyrics by Ahmmed Shagri Kameel and music by Mohammed Abdul Wahab

And enchant me
Sign to me, sign
Sign to me, sign
come to me
come to me

From "Ghania Ilia" composed for Umm Kulthum by Zakaria Ahmed for the film "Salihani" (1944), Lyrics by Mahmoud Bayram El-Tunisi

Melody of Songs by Umm Kulthum

Al-Bushra Camp 2013