The Scores: Ferguson

Rondo Rock



Form

Introduction A B A C A Coda

This body-speech rondo is a favorite with the Memphis kids. (The intro and coda contain the story, in case you were wondering!)

Section A repeats each time it is performed (16 measures total). -NF

Rondo Rock (Video)

(From *Hearing America*, Lorenz Music. Used with permission.)

This piece is a transcription of a Memphis cheerleading routine Ferguson learned from her daughters. The piece centers around a step the music teachers termed "*The Memphis Shuffle*" which includes a fascinating dotted quarter, dotted quarter, quarter note rhythm often found in music from the Caribbean and jazz. Like many songs, the piece originated as a playground chant and transitioned into a more extensive form (*Playground Jam*, p. 150).

Rondo Rock is an iconic representation of the Schulwerk in America employing African American speech vernacular and body percussion built on choreography and rhythms typical in African American playground chants. Typical is the word Carl Orff used in describing rhymes, songs, and melodies to be used in the context of the Schulwerk.

