

## Student Choreography: Monster Mash

- Students listen to a piece of music and identify its form. (I love *Monster Mash* for this.)
- Teacher divides class into small groups, and provides each group with a set of movements.
- Each group must use every movement on their card to create movement for their corresponding section. (I usually have half of the groups perform all the A sections [verses], and the other half perform all the B sections [refrains]. It's faculty time during the C section.) We all freestyle during the introduction and coda.
- Make sure you give each group both locomotor and non-locomotor movements. (You want them to actually move through the space, not just show you gestures.) I like to be both wacky and tricky here. I include the name of some dance [the pony, the mashed potato, etc.] they're certain NOT to know. And I purposefully list 3 movements on each card; part of the problem-solving fun is figuring out how to make 3 movements work for 4 phrases!
- I play the music while the groups are working; but if that's too much sound for you, just leave it off.
- Simultaneous practice: All the A sections practice with the first A section of the recording; ditto for the B groups.
- Put it all together, baby!
- Have students remind you of the form, and challenge them to find examples of rondo-like patterns (same/different/same/different) in the greater world.
- **PS** If they really like what they've created, the A's and B's will want to team up and teach each other their movements. That way, everybody can dance to the whole recording.