



SONG OF THE MONTH

“DANCE MONKEY” BY TONES AND I

Meets National Core Arts Standards 7-9

OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work (Re7)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work (Re8)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (Re9)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (Vol.39 No.5)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

1. Ask students to read the text on pages 14-16 on their own
2. Have one of the students read aloud the text on page 16
3. Play Tones and I’s “Dance Monkey” (*Hear the Music track 1 on musicalive.com*), while the students read through the notation on pages 17-18

DEVELOP

Ask students about the story:

What is a busker?

What country is Toni Watson from?

How was she first discovered?

What made her stand out from the other buskers in Byron?

What did other buskers think of Watson’s music?

What was the title of the first song she released?

Which song was more successful, “Jonny Run Away” or “Dance Monkey?”

What are the lyrics in “Dance Monkey” about?

What is her attitude towards making new music? What’s her goal?

2. Ask students questions about the song/notation:

How many sharps and flats are there in the key signature?

So, what key is the song in?

What is the time signature?

What instrument begins the song?

Are the notes in the introduction short or long?

What is unique about Watson’s voice?

In the chorus, what changes about the instrumentation?

In terms of melody, is the second verse the same or different than the first?

What is unique about the last time she sings the chorus?

CLOSE

What does this song suggest about the way we perceive and/or treat people in the entertainment business? Is there a certain level of expectation for musicians and are those expectations fair?

Think about any time you may have seen a musician playing, whether it be on the streets, in the park, at a restaurant or in concert. What is the relationship between musician and the audience and how does it change depending on the venue?

ASSESS

Did the students follow along with the song?

Did they answer the discussion questions?

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Crossword Puzzle can be found on page 7

