Be A Line Dancer
with Dawn Dyson

A QUICK HOW-TO
Here is a dance experience with Dawn Dyson, featuring an American line dance called “Pata Pata.” This dance was created in California, even though the song originates from Johannesburg, South Africa. “Pata Pata” was made popular in the 1960s by the famous South African singer, Miriam Makeba. Nicknamed “Mama Africa,” Makeba was also a United Nations goodwill ambassador and civil rights activist.

1 “Pata Pata,” meaning “Touch, Touch,” is danced in lines, as a group of individuals. It has four parts which are repeated over and over until the music ends. Learn the movement patterns and perform the dance with Dawn.

2 Four Parts of the Dance: Begin by standing with legs and feet together.
   Part 1 - Touch R foot out to the R side and back together; repeat with the L foot.
   Part 2 - With feet together, toes turn out; heels turn out; heels turn inward; toes turn inward.
   Part 3 - Lift R knee up/down two times (add a twist of the body), stepping on the R foot after the second lift.
   Part 4 - Kick the L foot to the front and march three times in place.

3 Dawn suggests that you find different ways to move your arms as you perform the foot patterns. So, as you do the specific foot patterns, improvise movements for your arms. Think of movements that reach up/down; side/side; rotating in/out; bend/straighten; swing in/out, etc.

THINK ABOUT IT
Can you find South Africa on a map or globe? How might dance be a way to help people connect or understand one another?

DIG DEEPER
To learn more about African cultural dances, check out The Music Center’s Artsource Curriculum: Chuck Davis unit, “African Roots in American Soil” Level III. www.musiccenter.org/education/Teacher-Resources/Artsource-Curriculum/Available-ArtSource-Units/Chuck-Davis---African-American-Dance-Ensemble/

TRY THIS CHALLENGE
Once you know the dance well, you can face a new direction each time the pattern repeats. When you kick your left foot, pivot on your right foot to make a quarter turn to the right and march three steps facing the new direction. Repeat the dance pattern facing this new direction. Add the quarter turn to the right every time you kick your left foot.

Credits: “Pata Pata 2000” by Miriam Makeba (album: Homeland)

NEW WORDS

Pata Pata
A line dance from South Africa with four repeated parts; performed to the song of the same name sung by Miriam Makeba.

Line Dance
A choreographed dance with a repeated sequence of steps in which a group of people dance in one or more lines, all facing in the same direction, executing steps at the same time.

Dance Patterns
Steps, movements, rhythms and spatial pathways of a dance.

Improvise
Create and perform without planning; making up movements in the moment.