

KUM BA YAH	A song with African origin that has taken on a personality of its own here in the United States. It is appropriate to sing Kum Ba Yah (frequently translated as “come by here”) with the dance.
STEPS	3 beat sway-chasse (sway R L R close L, open R, close L); 3 beat rock step (forward, back, side) A two beat sway (2 R 2 L) could be added during the introduction if the students feel the need to move to the compelling rhythm
FORMATION	Single circle: Try to generate a unison energy quality by keeping the steps small and the circle close together
POSITION	Hands are joined low with nearly shoulder to shoulder contact
VARIATIONS	If the students are ready to mix it up, a second pattern, the reverse of the pattern described below, could be added. This allows the dance to follow the verse/chorus (A B) form of the song. Pattern “A” (sway-chasse 3 times followed by 1 rock step) would be performed on the chorus with pattern “B” (3 rock steps followed by 1 sway-chasse) being performed on the verses.
MUSIC	African music is frequently based on a “rhythm complex” of two or more interlocking meters. The “Kum Ba Yah” accompaniment begins with a clear duple meter introduction (32 beats) that is joined by the dance in a slow triple meter. The musical play of 2s against 3s continues throughout. Learning the song and singing along can help anchor the students to the dance patterns.
REPETITIONS	Introduction: chorus, verse, chorus, verse, chorus, verse, chorus

Repeat this first phrase 3 times in succession before going to the next phrase (total of 18 beats)

step R sway R	sway L	sway R	step L to R close	step R to side open	step L to R close
1	2	3	4	5	6

Repeat this second phrase only once (six beats plus the 18 above = 24 counts for the chorus)

rock R forward	rock L back	step R to side of L	rock L forward	rock R back	step L to side of R
1	2	3	4	5	6

If an alternating B pattern is desired for the verses, reverse the above pattern by performing 3 of the second phrase followed by only 1 of the first phrase. Continue to alternate A and B patterns throughout the song.