

Robbi K and Friends present
KEEP THE BEAT!

Dear Teacher,

Welcome to *Keynotes*, a performance guide created by the Education Department of the State Theatre in New Brunswick, NJ. These *Keynotes* are designed to be used with your students before and after attending the *Keep the Beat!* concert.

Here's what you'll find inside *Keynotes*:

Dear Teacher...	page 2
Who is Robbi Kumalo?	page 3
Keep the Beat!	page 4
Global Community	page 5
Twinkle, Twinkle	page 6
Good Morning	page 7
African Jungle	page 8
Going to the Theater	page 9





Keep the Beat! is a multi-lingual concert led by singer Robbi Kumalo that celebrates the diversity of the world's people and places. The performance encourages students to look for the cultural elements—particularly music and rhythm—that unite all people. Backed by her band, Robbi performs in many languages, including Spanish, Hebrew, Swahili, Zulu, Arabic, and English. She uses many active participation techniques—such as call and response, listening and repeating, and body movement— during the show.

In addition to background information for you, the teacher, these *Keynotes* provide information and activity pages that you can copy and use with your students both before and after the show. The performance has been recommended for students in grades K through 3. Depending on the age and ability of your students, some of the pages can be used “as is” with your students, while other pages should be used as a guide for teacher-led discussion and activities. Here are general suggestions for using this guide:

- Pages 3-4 are intended to be used by teachers for their own information as well as for points of discussion with students.
- Page 5 contains foreign words and phrases introduced during the show. The page can be copied for older students and shared verbally with younger students.
- Pages 6-8 are designed to be photocopied for your students. Teachers of students in Kindergarten are encouraged to read the information aloud to the class and modify the activities as needed. The activities can be used directly by the students or with the teacher acting as facilitator.

The accompanying CD contains five songs that you can play for your students to help them become familiar with Robbi. She'll perform “Keep the Beat!” (the first song on the CD) at the State Theatre. You'll also hear all the songs described in this guide, plus a gospel medley (“He's Got the Whole World in his Hands,” “Michael, Row the Boat Ashore,” “This Little Light of Mine,” and “When the Saints Go Marching In”) and the Hebrew folksong, “Havah Nagilah” (“Let Us Rejoice”).



RESOURCES

ON THE WEB:

http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/socialstd/MBD/Culture_index.html

This website has links to annotated bibliographies of multicultural books appropriate for elementary grades.

<http://multiculturalkids.com>

Multicultural materials for preschool and elementary school-age children

BOOKS:

Free to Be You and Me, by Marlo Thomas. Running Press, 2002

A book of non-sexist, non-racist stories, songs, poems, and drawings. Also available in audio and video versions.

Musical Games, Fingerplays, and Rhythmic Activities for Early Childhood, by Marian Wirth, Vera Strassevitch, Rita Shotwell, and Patricia Stemmler. Parker Publishing Co., 1983

MUSIC:

Folk Songs for Young People, by Pete Seeger. Smithsonian Folkways, 2002



Who is Robbi Kumalo?



ROBBI KUMALO is known across the nation for her dynamic storytelling, singing, dancing, and children's music and theater. In addition to performing for more than 50,000 children annually, Robbi works as a teaching artist with the Lincoln Center Institute and C.W. Post Institute for Aesthetic Education.

Robbi has recorded and/or performed with artists including Aretha Franklin, Chaka Khan, Vieux Diop, Eileen Ivers, Daniel Rodriguez, Deepak Chopra, Michael Amante, John Hiatt, Arif Mardin, Bakithi Kumalo, Jewel, Diana Ross, Rod Stewart, Mary J. Blige, and Harry Belafonte. She also performs jazz concerts with her band, KUMALO, and works as a professional voice-over artist.



Robbi created *Keep the Beat!* to expand our awareness of the relationship between the arts and culture. Here are

some definitions to help explain the meaning of the show to your students.

MUSIC - a combination of sounds that has rhythm and melody and is usually pleasing to hear.

RHYTHM - the repetition of a beat or sound in a regular or predictable pattern.

CULTURE - the social customs, arts, language, institutions, and beliefs of a specific group of people, passed down from one generation to the next.



Check Out Robbi!

ON THE WEB:

www.balidali.com

Robbi Kumalo's website

www.hirobbi.com

Robbi's site for kids

MUSIC:

Keep the Beat!, by Robbi Kumalo. Kumalo Music, 2003. Available at

www.cdbaby.com

VIDEO:

Keep the Beat! BaliDali Productions, Inc., 2005. Available at www.cdbaby.com.

In this interactive concert DVD, filmed live at the 2005 Berks Jazz Festival, Robbi K & Friends travel

around the globe in song.



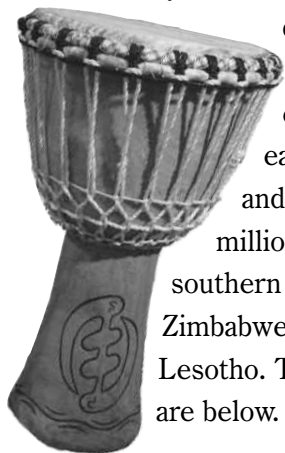
What's Your Culture...?

Ask your students to identify specific things that define their own culture: language, customs, holidays, music, dance, beliefs, etc. Can they identify any cultural elements that are common to all of the different cultures represented in your classroom?

Keep the Beat!



Play *Keep the Beat!* (track 1) for your students. This song has several different sections, all connected by a steady beat. The words are in English and in two different African languages: Swahili and Zulu. Swahili is spoken in many countries in Africa, especially in the eastern countries of Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Zulu is spoken by over 10 million people in Africa, including the southern countries of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, and Lesotho. The African words used in the song are below.



Robbi “Keeps the Beat” with a djembe drum (say: JEM-bay) from West Africa.



Funga Alafiya Ah-shay Ah-shay

Translation: Welcome and Peace be with you!
(Swahili)

Lona! Shona! Hamba! Ngena!

Translation: Over here! Over There! Go!
Come in! (Zulu)

Tse Tse Kule Tse Tse Kofi Sa Kofi Salanga Langa Chi Langa Kum! Adene, Kum! Adene

This nonsense song uses words from several West African languages, including Hausa. ‘Kofi’ is the name of a boy born on Friday, and ‘Adene’ is a girl’s name.

There are many different ways to say “Hello” or “Welcome.” Have your students greet each other using sayings from around the world such as “Aloha,” “Howdy,” or “Shalom.” How many can your class come up with?



There are many nonsense songs and rhymes in the English language, too. Copy the words to “Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo” or “Hey Diddle Diddle” on the board and ask your students to define the “nonsense” words.



Have students hide objects around the classroom and direct their classmates to find them with the Zulu words for “here,” “there,” “go,” and “come.”

Global Community

5 

In *Keep the Beat!* you will hear songs sung in many languages. How many of the words on this page can you remember?

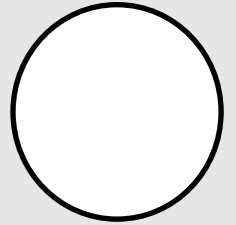
Say It in Swahili!

Swahili is a language spoken in East Africa.

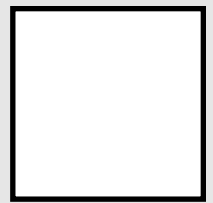
jambo	(jam-boh)	Hello
asante	(ah-SAHN-tey)	Thank you
ndiyo	(nn-DEE-yoh)	Yes
hapana	(ha-pa-na)	No
kwa heri	(kwa-HA-ree)	Goodbye
hakuna matata	(ha-KOO-na ma-TA-ta)	No worries



Learn the Shapes in Spanish!



Circle: El Círculo



Square: El Cuadrado

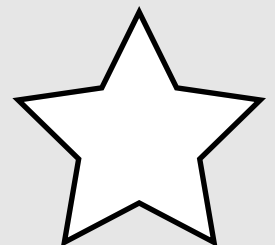
Count to Ten in Zulu!

The Zulu language is spoken in Southern Africa.

1	ukunye	(oo-GOO-ne)
2	isibili	(is-i-BEE-lee)
3	kuthathu	(koo-TAH-too)
4	okune	(oh-GOO-ne)
5	isihlanu	(is-ee-LHAH-noo)
6	isithupha	(is-ee-TOO-pah)
7	isikhombisa	(is-ee-koom-BEE-sah)
8	isishiyagalombili	(is-ee-shee-ah-gah-lom-BEE-lee)
9	usushiyagalolunye	(is-ee-shee-ah-gah-lo-LOO-ne)
10	ishumi	(ee-SHOO-mee)

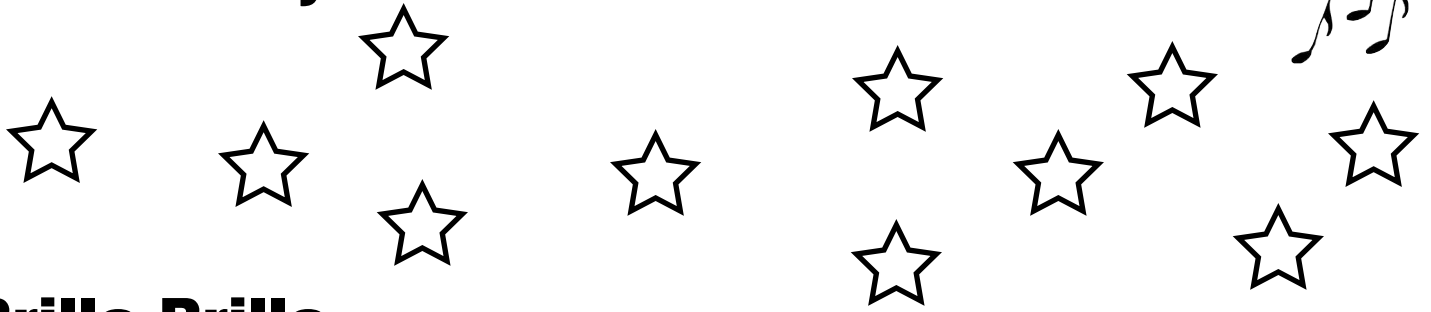


Triangle: El Triángulo



Star: La Estrella

Twinkle, Twinkle

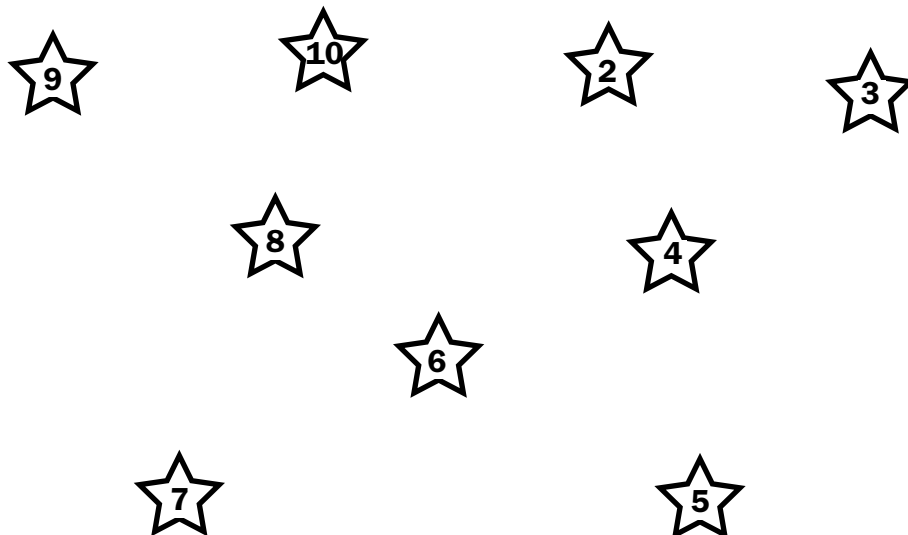
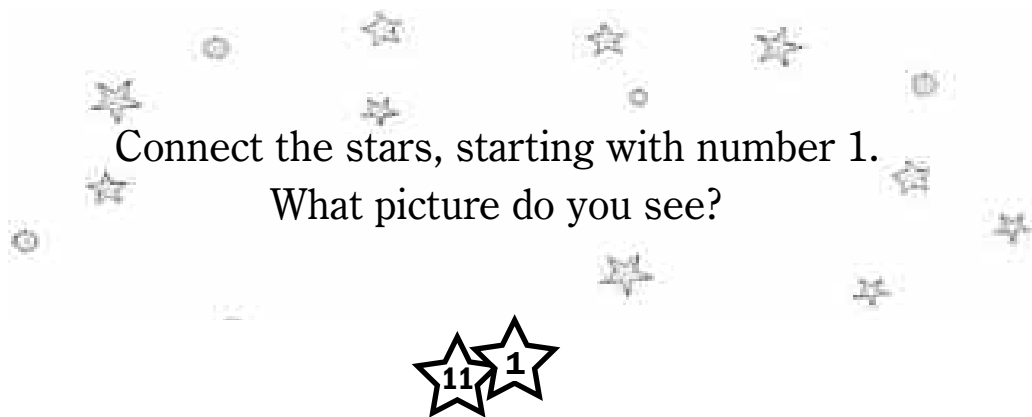


Brilla Brilla

¡Brilla brilla, estrellita!
Te pregunto ¿que eres-tu?
Sobre todo el universo,
¡Cual diamante in cielo!
¡Brilla brilla, linda estrella!
Te pregunto ¿que eres-tu?

Twinkle twinkle, little star!
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky!
Twinkle twinkle, little star!
How I wonder what you are.

Connect the stars, starting with number 1.
What picture do you see?

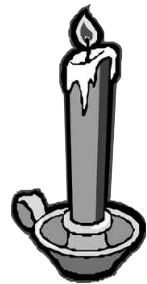
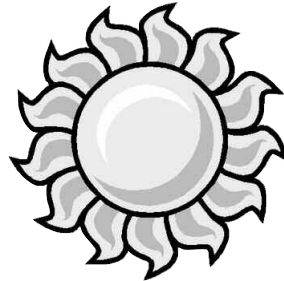
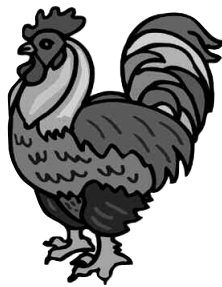
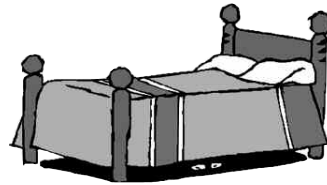
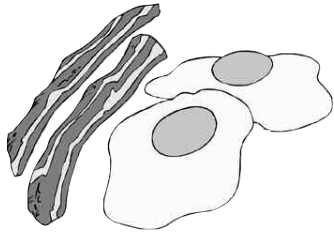


Good Morning!

Robbi sings the “Rooster Song” about waking up in the morning. Circle the things you see when you wake up in the morning!



Robbi performing the “Rooster Song”



The African Jungle

In the Zulu language, Mbube (EEM-boo-beh) is the word for “lion.” Below are the words to a song you may know from *The Lion King*. This song comes from Africa. Do you know how to sing it? Try singing it while you color your own lion!

Let's Play!

Choose your favorite animal. How does this animal move? What kinds of sounds does it make? Pretend you are this animal. Can the other students guess what kind of animal you are from the way you move and the sounds you make?



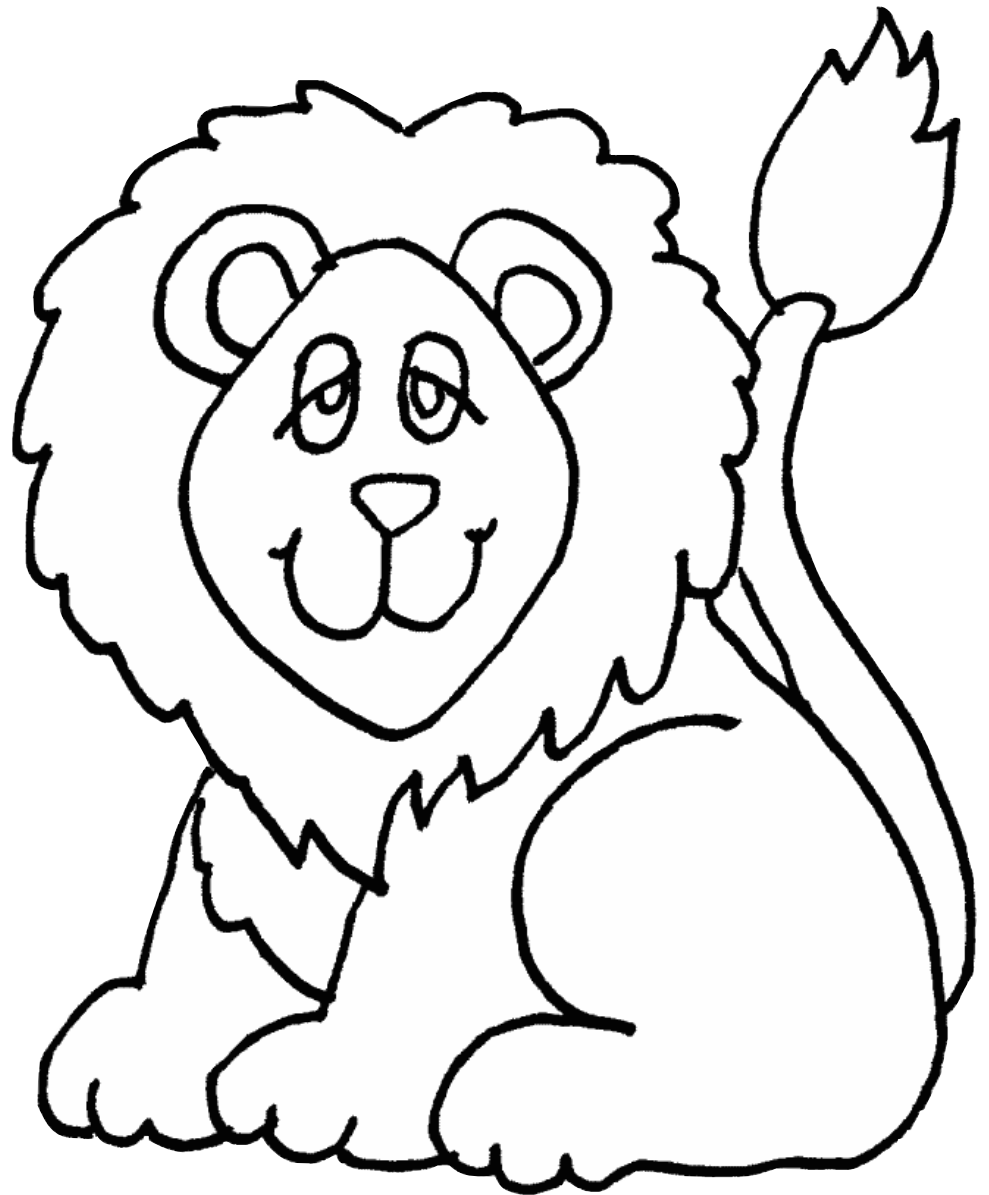
Mbube

**In the jungle,
The mighty jungle,
The lion sleeps tonight.**

**In the village,
The peaceful village,
The lion sleeps tonight.**

**Hush my baby,
Don't fear my darling,
The lion sleeps tonight.**

**Hmmmmmmmm,
Mbube, mamawe.**



Going to the Theater

Going to see a play at the theater is not the same as watching TV. When you are sitting in the audience at the State Theatre, the actors will be in the same room as you. They will be able to hear and see everything that goes on in the audience.

Use the key below to find out what your job is at the performance.



audience



clap



performance







listen




watch

When I go to a  , I am part of the  . This is a very important job.

I have to  and  very carefully. If I talk or move around, the

performers and the  will not be able to concentrate on the .

When the  ends, it's okay for me to .

key notes

Keynotes are produced by the Education Department of the State Theatre, New Brunswick, NJ.

Wesley O. Brustad, *President* and *CEO*

Lian Farrer, *Vice President for Education*

Keynotes written and designed by Katie Pyott

Edited by Lian Farrer

© 2006 The State Theatre

The State Theatre's education program is funded in part by Bank of America, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Brother International Corporation, James and Diane Burke, the E & G Foundation, the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Johnson & Johnson, the J. Seward Johnson Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Karma Foundation, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, the McCrane Foundation, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, National Starch and Chemical Company, the PNC Foundation, Verizon, and the Wachovia Foundation. Their support is gratefully acknowledged.



Continental Airlines is the official airline of the State Theatre.



Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.