

Language	All languages
Topic	Music and Dances from Bavaria and Alps Region: Yodelling and “Schuhplattler”
Learners - Level	All levels



Music and Dances from Bavaria and Alps Region

Yodelling (German: Jodeln)

Picture: Hintersteiner Jodler (<http://www.wechs-volksmusik.de/page2.php>)

Aims and objectives of the activity

- To learn more about Bavarian traditional music
- To improve vocabulary related to that topic
- To invite learners to speak about their own traditional music and dances
- To invite learners to speak about music and dances
- To improve concentration and coordination of movements

Yodelling



Yodeling (also **yodelling** or **jodeling**) is a form of singing which involves repeated changes of pitch during a single note. The singer quickly switches between the low-pitch chest register (or "chest voice") and the high-pitch head register or falsetto.

The English word *yodel* is derived from the German (and originally Austro-Bavarian) word *jodeln*, meaning "to utter the syllable *jo*" (pronounced "yo" in English). (Source: Wikipedia)

Alpine yodelling has got a long tradition in Bavaria and the Alps region (also in Austria and Switzerland) and is part of the Bavarian culture - especially in rural regions.

Possible approach :

Listen to the following yodelling. Then answers the questions below.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZCvu_WgN58

Ursprung Buam, Bravour Jodler

and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6V9KSoOnlo8&list=RD15fF1Z0WtvGxc>

Oesch's die Dritten - Jodler

a) Multiple choice

1. Yodelling is
 - a) instrumental music
 - b) a form of singing
 - c) a Bavarian speciality

 2. Is yodelling a form of singing for:
 - a) small children
 - b) only for men
 - c) for children, men and women

 3. What is the particularity of yodelling:
 - a) it is without words
 - b) it is only sung by older people
 - c) it is particularly loud

 4. Yodelling
 - a) exists in all countries
 - b) is a typical way of singing in Alps region
 - c) is sung in the North of Germany
- b) Oral task**
- Describe
 - 1) the voices of the singers (e.g. low, loud, high,)
 - 2) the clothes of the singers. Are they different from the ones you wear yourself?

Bavarian Dance: "Schuhplattler"



"Schuhplattler" is probably the most "exotic" dance of Bavaria and of the Alps regions. The origins of this social dance are found in an early courtship display (Balztanz). Such a dance was described in 1050 by a monk of Tegernsee Abbey in the knightly poem Ruodlieb, wherein similar postures and movements of the Schuhplattler are depicted. The homelands of the Schuhplattler

dance are the Northern Limestone Alps (Bavarian Prealps, Chiemgau and Berchtesgaden Alps) of Upper Bavaria (Germany) and the adjacent Austrian states of Tyrol and Salzburg, down to South Tyrol and the Drava Valley in Carinthia .

Style

In days gone by, young men wished to impress marriageable young ladies with their dancing prowess. Initially the style, allegedly an imitation of Capercaillie courting, was free without rules. Performed usually in the 3/4 time of a Ländler, one would carry out a series of jumps and hip movements to the time of the music. Characteristically the male dancers will rhythmically strike their thighs, knees and soles (platteln), clap their hands (paschen), and stamp with their feet. The former partner dance is nowadays usually performed by men only, often in the context of tradition shows by Trachten societies which maintain established Austro-Bavarian costumes and songs (Volksmusik).

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schuhplattler>

Possible approach :

Watch the following video. Then read the questions and fulfil the tasks given.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dz4Mm_RE2to&list=TL8Dwc-8w9msAnyEY3cTZUtZ1cH9A_VgtJ

The video is part of a TV programme (Bayerischer Fernsehen = BR) which presents traditional Bavarian music and dances. The dancers are dancing a “Schuhplattler”.

Watch the video and note:

- Where is the dance being performed?
- How are people dressed? Describe the clothes. What is different from your country?
- In small groups try to make some of the movements made by the dancers. Do you remember some? Is it easy to do?
- Search in Internet to find what a “Gamsbart” is and write a short explanation to be presented in class.



Here are some more links to see further video clips about “Schuhplattler” dance.



Haushammer plattler: This one is performed by a single man so that it is easy to recognize the movements and steps made.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atwMwFIowE>

Maxglaner-Marsch 2: A group of men are performing. The music is quite different from the former one. You can easily observe the movements and steps of that “Schuhplattler”.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr5Nx5o8qhw>

"Rockfliaga" Tanz der Gaugruppe : produced by the Chiemgaulpenverband. This video clip shows a dance with men and women. Women are turning themselves and at the same time building a large circle. It looks easier as it is!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWjAmoSmoHE>

For fun you could have a look at that Australian trying to teach “Schuhplattler” on YouTube in English: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFb7nuw-5NY&list=TL8Dwc-8w9msAnyEY3cTZUtZ1cH9A_VgtJ