“The Cycles of Life and Music”

Young Person’s Concert 2020
Canton Symphony Orchestra
Classroom Materials
Grades 3–5
The Canton Symphony Orchestra presents “The Cycles of Life and Music”. This immersive learning experience will challenge students to see how music has evolved over time just like the world around them. In the uncertainty of our current time, the orchestra will demonstrate how change is normal and environments adapt to that change. Whether learning from home or in a socially distanced classroom, this virtual concert will help students understand the cycles of life and music.

The following classroom materials can be used to help enhance the concert experience by giving students a glimpse of what will be discussed at the concert.

Page 2 – Review Topics for Classroom Teachers Pages 3–14 – Activities for Music Teachers

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Classroom Topics Related to YPC 2020:

3.LS.3: Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of their adaptations for survival in their natural environments.

3.LS.1: Offspring resemble their parents and each other.

5.LS.1 Organisms perform a variety of roles in an ecosystem.

4.LS.1: Changes in an organism’s environment are sometimes beneficial to its survival and sometimes harmful.

4.ESS.2: The surface of Earth changes due to weathering.

4.ESS.3: The surface of Earth changes due to erosion and deposition.

4.LS.2: Fossils can be compared to one another and to present-day organisms according to their similarities and differences.

5.LS.2 All of the processes that take place within organisms require energy.
Otto Nicolai (1810–1849)

Fun Facts:
- Born in Prussia but lived in Germany for the most of his life.
- He was one of the founders of the Vienna Philharmonic.
- All of his operas were originally in Italian except for The Merry Wives of Windsor which was in German.

The Merry Wives of Windsor – 1849

This is an opera in three acts based on a play by William Shakespeare. This opera also has spoken dialogue, making it a musical work called a Singspiel (ZING-shpeel). It has elements of comic opera and fantasy opera. Nicolai combined elements from different operatic styles that were popular at the time. It is still a popular opera and the overture is used in concert settings.
Activity One: The Orchestra Over Time

Through the different periods in orchestral music, the orchestra has grown and changed. Below are diagrams of the orchestra from the four periods of orchestral music. Look them over and write down the differences between each period.

- Baroque Period: approx. 1600 – 1750
- Classical Period: approx. 1730 – 1820
- Romantic Period: approx. 1830 – 1900
- Modern Period: approx. 1900 – now

Diagrams by the Dallas Symphony
THE CLARINET JOINED THE ORCHESTRA AROUND 1780.

Diagrams by the Dallas Symphony
OTHER POSSIBLE INSTRUMENTS INCLUDE SAXOPHONE AND ELECTRONICS.
Henry Purcell (1659–1695)
• Wrote a uniquely English form of Baroque music.
• Considered one of the greatest English composers. No English composer was as famous until the 20th century.
• Both of his brothers were musicians as well.
• Some say he started composing at nine years old.
• Spent much of his life near or in Westminster Abbey.

Dido’s Lament

Dido’s Lament is the aria “When I am laid in earth” from the opera Dido and Aeneas. Leopold Stokowski wrote a transcription of the aria for a string orchestra.

In this virtual concert, the Canton Symphony Orchestra is playing the transcription by Leopold Stokowski. It is a very mournful piece that uses the string instruments to play the part of the singer in the aria.
Activity One: Families of Instruments

Instruments are grouped into families because of characteristics they have in common, just like families of organisms. The families sit near each other in the orchestra and make sounds from their instruments in the same way.

**Activity:** Read the descriptions of the different families of instruments and then write which family the instrument belongs to. Bonus: What is the name of each instrument?

**String Family:** Make sound by vibrating a string. They are typically made of wood and have the same basic shape.

**Woodwind Family:** Make sound by using air to vibrate a reed or blow air across an opening in the instrument. All used to be made of wood, and now some are made of metal.

**Brass Family:** Make sound by “buzzing” your lips together and blowing air into the instrument. They are all made of metal, specifically brass.

**Percussion Family:** Make sound by hitting the instrument with your hands, a mallet, or each other. This family has the most instruments!
Key: Cello, French Horn, Clarinet, Violin, Tuba, Oboe, Timpani, Trombone, Bass drum, Bassoon, Harp, Trumpet, Double Bass, Flute
Activity Two: Listening to the Instruments

We have learned that instruments are grouped into families because of common characteristics and the way they make their sound. In this activity, you will listen to a clip of an instrument being played. After you have listened, list which family of instruments the clip belongs to. Bonus: Can you guess what the instrument is?

Play about one minute of each video to get an idea of what the instrument sounds like. Only play the audio of the clip.

View Full Playlist:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXGoOMl1HkfCvFAXSZk_E1ejf5VaYCvR1

- Listening 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOlHD13NqEQ
- Listening 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1NGjEqOZ2k
- Listening 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zZ-xOZXsVM
- Listening 4: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RE1-VMvZ80
- Listening 5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wa5yony2CeA&t=43s
- Listening 6: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abAcgbaauIo
- Listening 7: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXUhWj52TCw
- Listening 8: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roWjmsf-cyU
- Listening 9: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7KyfpP-eoQ
- Listening 10: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCDJ04N7wC0

Key: Flute (Woodwind), Violin (String), Tuba (Brass), Trumpet (Brass), Cello (String), Timpani (Percussion), Clarinet (Woodwind), Snare (Percussion), Harp (String), Bassoon (Woodwind)
Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)
- He was an Austrian composer who was instrumental in the development of many musical forms.
- Known as the “Father of the Symphony” and the “Father of the String Quartet”.
- Known for humor in his music.
- Wrote over 100 symphonies.

Symphony No. 60

This symphony uses ideas from music Haydn wrote for a play called Le Distrait (lu (rhymes with “put”) dee–STRAY). The symphony’s six movements represent the overture, four entr’actes and finale from the music composed for the five-act play.

The CSO will be playing from the first movement in the virtual performance.
Activity One: Listening to the Music

Instruments play different roles in the orchestra. Some play bass lines while some play the melody. Others add texture or supply the rhythm for a piece of music.

Definitions:

Melody – is a line of musical tones that the listener perceives as the main theme of a piece of music.

Bass line – is the lowest pitched rhythmic musical line which supports the melody.

Rhythm – is a strong, regular, repeated pattern of sound.

Activity: In this activity we will listen to a piece of music. In this piece you can hear a bass line, a melody and a steady rhythm. Listen through three times and see if you can identify who is playing each part.

Joseph Haydn Symphony No. 60 in C major – I. Adagio – Allegro di molto

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mrlBPcZaHM
- Listen from 0:12 – 0:36 seconds

1. Who is playing the melody? (high, middle or low voice)
2. Who is playing the bass line? (high, middle or low voice)
3. Who is playing a rhythm? (high, middle or low voice)

Key: 1) high  2) low  3) middle

Activity Two: Making Music

Now that you know more about melody, bass line and rhythm, try making your own music. Have one person sing a steady bass line, one person clap or tap a steady rhythm and one person can make up whatever melody they want. Use your favorite song as inspiration and try changing up who performs which part. You can also use items from around your house to tap your rhythm.
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

- One of the most performed composers from the classical era.
- His early works were in the Classical style, but by the end of his life he had introduced new musical ideas which paved the way for the Romantic style.
- His music can be divided into three periods: early, middle and late.
- He suffered from deafness at the end of his life.

Symphony No. 6

This symphony is known as the Pastoral Symphony and was completed in 1808. It was the first symphony in history to explicitly use the instruments of the orchestra to portray sounds from the real world. It was meant to portray nature and the countryside surrounding Vienna. Each movement portrays a different scene in nature.

Symphony No. 3

This symphony is known as the Heroic Symphony or ‘Eroica’. This symphony marks the beginning of Beethoven’s middle period. It is an important landmark in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras.
**Activity One: Changes in Music**

Composers use many different tools to create change in a piece of music. In this activity we will learn about some of these different tools. Below, several techniques of musical change will be described. After reading the descriptions, choose one to demonstrate for a partner and see if they can guess which tool you are using.

1. **Accelerando** – gradually increasing in speed
2. **Ritardando** – gradually slowing in speed
3. **Crescendo** – gradually increasing in volume
4. **Decrescendo** – gradually decreasing in volume

What are some other tools composers could use to create change in a piece of music?

**Activity Two: Growth from a Theme**

Sometimes a composer creates an entire piece of music from one theme. In the Young Person’s Concert, we will be ending with the 4th movement of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3. This piece starts with an exposition where a theme played by the strings is introduced. Then Beethoven develops this theme by adding in new ideas. The piece ends with a coda that is faster than the start of the piece.

**Activity:** Draw a visual representation of the growth of a piece of music. Listen to the 4th movement of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 as inspiration for your art. (Ideas: a flower, a sunrise, a tree, etc.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cp-efSs9Tb4
Igor Stravinsky (1882 –1971)

- Russian composer, pianist and conductor.
- He had great stylistic diversity in his compositions and pushed the boundaries of musical design.
- Became internationally famous with his three ballets: The Firebird, Petrushka, and The Rite of Spring.
- Studied with famous composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

Pulcinella Suite

This suite is from the ballet Pulcinella based on an 18th-century play. The ballet premiered in 1920. The ballet was choreographed by Leonide Massine and Igor Stravinsky wrote the music. He based the music on pieces composed by Baroque composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi. He adapted this older style of music by interjecting modern rhythms, cadences, and harmonies.

This piece was the beginning of Stravinsky’s neoclassical period. In this period, he began borrowing more ideas from music of the past.
Activity One: Borrowing

Composers sometimes borrow ideas from other composers when they write their music. One very famous composer who does this often is John Williams, the composer of Star Wars! He looked back in history at many great composers and used them as influences for his music. In this activity you will listen to two clips of music. For each set of clips you will have to decide which is from a Star Wars movie written by John Williams and which was written by another composer.

Set 1:
Clip 1) 6:48 – end – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0bcRCCg01l
Clip 2) 1:30 – 1:55 – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2J5Oifxp7w&list=PLegbpMXUkYIkypDJRIUDuyz2HtGGEk0&index=2

Set 2:
Clip 1) 0:00 – 0:26 – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxMdImj4mk&list=PLegbpMXUkYIkypDJRIUDuyz2HtGGEk0&index=4
Clip 2) 0:00 – 0:26 – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HfObbBL0Y4

Set 3:
Clip 1) 4:44 – end – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FffRC1pgZ7Y
Clip 2) 0:00 – 0:28 – https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=28&v=l2PWwzU2JUU&feature=emb_logo

Key:
Set 1: Clip 1 – Gustav Holst, The Planets: Mars, the Bringer of War, Clip 2 – Star Wars,
Set 3: Clip 1 – Giacomo Puccini, Manon Lescaut / Act 3 – Intermezzo, Clip 2 – Star Wars
Activity Two: Reflecting on the Orchestra

After listening to “The Cycles of Life and Music” Young Person’s Concert, write a reflection on your favorite period of music and why. (Choose from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Modern)