5th Grade American Composer Project

NAME: __________________________________

Leonard Bernstein
Aaron Copland
John Williams

(1) Using the notes you took during class as you listened to each composer’s music, pick your favorite composer out of the 3 we have studied.

(2) Fill out the notes section using the materials given to you or resources you have found yourself.

(3) Complete the following assignment using your notes:

You are a reporter for Entertainment Weekly magazine. You have been assigned to write a feature article reviewing the recent concert of the American composer of your choosing that you have attended.

Your review must contain:
* The composer’s name and brief biography
* A discussion of at least one piece of music that you heard
* A rating of 1 to 10 (1 being the lowest, 10 the highest) of the concert and if you would recommend this composer or his music to others.

You must also design the backstage/press pass that allowed you access to the concert.
American Composer Concert

Featuring the Music of:

John Williams
Leonard Bernstein
Aaron Copland

Name: ______________
American Composer Concert

JOHN WILLIAMS

“Olympic Fanfare & Theme:”

What instrument family begins the piece?: _____________________

Mood?: ____________________________________________________

Dynamics: _________________  Tempo: _____________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating:____/10

“Harry Potter Theme (Hedwig’s Song):”

Instrument(s) that begin the piece? ______________________________

___________________________________________________________

What is unique about the melody? ______________________________

Mood?: _________________________________________________

Dynamics: _________________  Tempo: _____________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating:____/10
JOHN WILLIAMS CON’T

“March from Raiders of the Lost Arc”

What instrument(s) begin the piece?: ______________________________

In the beginning of the piece, does the accompaniment change or repeat?

______________________________________________________________

Mood?: ______________________________________________________

Dynamics: _________________  Tempo: _________________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating: ___/10

“The Imperial March (Darth Vaders Theme)”

Instrument(s) that begin the piece? ______________________________

What instrument family has the melody? _________________________

Mood?: __________________________________________________________________

Dynamics: _________________  Tempo: _________________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating: ___/10
(1) What instrument family does John Williams tend to favor?

(2) Does John Williams use repetition or does he vary his melodies and accompaniments?

(3) Are John William’s pieces effective in helping the listener hear a story?

Other Notes:
Leonard Bernstein

“Candide Overture:”

Describe the introduction of this piece: ____________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Does Bernstein use a lot of instruments or just a few: _________________

Mood?: ___________________________________________________________________

Dynamics: _________________ Tempo: _______________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating:____/10

“Mambo Presto”:

What do you think is happening?: ________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Mood?: ___________________________________________________________________

Dynamics: _________________ Tempo: _______________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating:____/10
**“Prologue from West Side Story”**

Does Bernstein use a lot of instruments at once? ________________

What do you think is happening?_________________________________

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

Mood?: ______________________________________________________

Dynamics: _________________  Tempo: _____________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating: ___/10

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**“Times Square – 1944”:**

Do you feel like you are in Times Square in 1944? ________________

How is it in Times Square (busy, calm, etc)?

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

Mood?: ______________________________________________________

Dynamics: _________________  Tempo: _____________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating: ___/10
OVERALL LEONARD BERNSTEIN
[Rating: _____/10]

(1) Is Bernstein good at using the instruments of the orchestra effectively? Why?

(2) Is his music subtle or “in your face”?

(3) What is your overall opinion on Leonard Bernstein’s music?

Other Notes:
Aaron Copland
“Fanfare for the Common Man:”

What instrument families are featured?: ____________________________

Mood?: ________________________________

Dynamics: _________________  Tempo: _____________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating:____/10

“Hoe-Down“:
How does Copland make you feel like you are at a “Hoe-Down” (square dance)? ____________________________

Mood?: ________________________________

Dynamics: _________________  Tempo: _____________________

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating:____/10
Aaron Copland CON’T

“Billy the Kid”

Mood?: _________________________________________________

Dynamics: ________________  Tempo: _____________________

This piece is about a notorious cowboy – does Copland paint a good picture of him?

Other Comments (how does it make you feel, do you like it, etc.):

Rating:___/10

OVERALL Aaron Copland

[Rating: _____/10]

(1) Aaron Copland is considered to be a great American composer – what American themes does he use in his music?

(2) Is Copland successful at telling a story or painting a picture through his music?

(3) What is your overall opinion of Copland’s music?
Notes for Composer Biography:

The American composer I have chosen is: ______________________

He was born in the year: _______________ /where: _______________

He died in the year: _______________ /where: _______________

What instrument or instruments does he play? _______________

What style of music is he known for? _________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

Why is his music considered great? ___________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

What was his first piece or most famous piece?

_________________________________________________________________________

One interesting fact about him:

_________________________________________________________________________

What are your opinions on his music?:

_________________________________________________________________________
Sample Grading Rubric:

American Composer Project Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>WHAT</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>HOW</th>
<th>WHY</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Composer</td>
<td>What did you attend?</td>
<td>Where was it?</td>
<td>When was the event?</td>
<td>Did you like the composer’s music?</td>
<td>Why or Why Not?</td>
<td>Other Information</td>
<td>Score</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Comments:
Review of _____________________________

By:_____________________________
Name: ___________________

Press Badge/Backstage Pass