

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:
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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

OVERALL JOHN WILLIAMS

[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

LEONARD BERNSTEIN CON'T

"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

"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

Name:

Class:

√+ = Outstanding √ = Average/Information Present √- = Below Average 0 = Not Attempted

WHO <i>Name of Composer</i>	WHAT <i>What did you attend?</i>	WHERE <i>Where was it?</i>	WHEN <i>When was the event?</i>	HOW <i>Did you like the composer's music?</i>	WHY <i>Why or Why Not?</i>	OTHER <i>Other Information</i>	OVERALL SCORE

Other Comments:

Entertainment

Review of _____

By: _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name: _____

Press Badge/Backstage Pass

