Curriculum Guide for the 2007-2008 Intermediate Concerts

SoundScapes:

Connecting Music and Art

Generously funded by

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

M&T Bank
Understanding what’s important

Excellus

RGE
Always at Your Service

Cornell Weinstein Family Foundation
Dear Teachers:

This packet contains lesson plans with composer biographies that are designed to help you prepare your students for the RPO’s Intermediate Concerts. We hope that they will be useful to both music teachers and classroom teachers. Feel free to adapt or change the activities to suit the needs and abilities of your students. We hope that this guide and the CD will be helpful in preparing for this concert.

Please review the concert manners on page 45. This will help your students enjoy the concert more on their special day.

The musicians of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra are looking forward to playing for you and your students. They know this can be a life changing experience!

=Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Education Department:
Jo Whang, Interim Director of Education & Outreach
Ellen Breakfield, Education Intern

We wish to extend our sincerest thanks to the team of teachers who wrote these lessons:
Cheryl McElhatten, Barnard School, Greece Central School District; Patrice Palone, West Ridge Elementary School, Greece Central School District, Alice Pratt, School No. 16, Rochester City School District; Susan Walsh, Buckman Heights School, Greece Central School District; Kathleen Sullivan, Pine Brook School, Greece Central School District; Susan Van Buren, Jefferson Avenue Elementary School, Fairport School District; and Jeanne Gray.

Link Up!

Included in most lessons is a list of websites that will help you find out more about a specific topic. Every effort has been made to ensure that these listings are accurate and appropriate for children.

The intermediate concerts are funded by Monroe County with additional support from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Rochester Region, M & T Bank, Rochester Gas & Electric and the Cornell Weinstein Family Foundation.

The RPO Education and Outreach programs are made possible in part by New York State Senator Jim Alesi; the New York State Assembly, secured by Assemblyman Joseph D. Morelle; New York State Senator Joseph Robach; City of Rochester; New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency; Castle Fund for Music Education; Davenport-Hatch Foundation; Democrat and Chronicle; Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation; Frontier, a Citizens Communication Company; Eugene & Emily Grant Family Foundation; Glover Crask Charitable Trust; Halcyon Hill Foundation; Kraft Foods; Mary S. Mulligan Trust; The Kilian J. & Caroline F. Schmitt Foundation; Thomson West; Wendy’s Restaurants of Rochester; Fred & Floy Willmott Foundation and Xerox.
## Table of Contents

### 1. Background Information:
- Meet Your Conductor!  
- Learn to conduct!  

### 2. Learning about the Composers and Listening to Their Music:
- Biography of Modest Mussorgsky  
- Lesson plan for “Promenade” from *Pictures at an Exhibition*  
- Biography of Claude Debussy  
- Lesson plan for *Danse*  
- Lesson plan for “Le matin d’un jour de fête”  
- Biography of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
- Lesson plan for *Swan Lake*  
- Biography of Johann Sebastian Bach  
- Lesson plan for “Ricercare” from *Musical Offering*  
- Biography of Franz Schubert  
- Lesson plan for Symphony No. 8, “Unfinished”  
- Biography of Ferde Grofé  
- Lesson plan for “On the Trail” from *Grand Canyon Suite*  
- Biography of Arnold Schoenberg  
- Lesson plan for *Three Pieces* for chamber orchestra, movements 1 & 2  
- Biography of Bedrich Smetana  
- Lesson Plan for “The Moldau”  
- Social Studies lesson plan for “The Moldau”  
- ELA Lesson Plan for Artists and Composers  

### 3. Getting ready to go to the concert:
- What is an Orchestra?  
- Meet George Eastman  
- Concert Manners  
- Evaluation Form
Meet your Conductor!

Michael Butterman has held the position of Principal Conductor for Education and Outreach (the Louise and Henry Epstein Family Chair) since the 2000-2001 season. He conducts all of the orchestra’s concerts for young people, leads many other programs in the symphony’s season, and represents the organization in the community. Mr. Butterman is also the Music Director for both the Shreveport Symphony and the Boulder Philharmonic.

Mr. Butterman began studying music at the age of seven. He took piano lessons beginning in the second grade, and added violin the next year. He enjoyed music so much that he became a violinist in the Northern Virginia Youth Symphony, and practiced piano for hours each day. He eventually entered and won several piano competitions when he was in high school.

Although he loved music, he decided to concentrate on studies in chemistry when he was in college. He remained involved in music by playing piano for his school’s choruses. One year, he was asked to conduct the choruses, and discovered how much he enjoyed working with other musicians to prepare concert programs. Mr. Butterman then decided to get some specialized training in conducting, and enrolled at Indiana University.

He was offered a teaching position at Louisiana State University and lived in Baton Rouge for five years. Today, he lives in Louisiana with his wife, Jennifer and daughter, Olivia.

Learn to conduct!

A conductor has many different responsibilities. He plans the music that the audience will hear, learns the different parts that each musician plays and decides how to interpret what the composer has written. The conductor uses each of his hands differently. With the right hand he keeps the beat with a specific pattern (see below), with the left hand, he communicates the expressive qualities of the music.
What is an Orchestra?

“Orchestral music is one of the glories of the world.”
Georg Solti (1912-1997)

In ancient Greece the orchestra was the space between the auditorium and the proscenium (or stage), in which the chorus and the instrumentalists were seated. This is how the modern orchestra got its name.

In some theaters, like the Eastman Theatre, the orchestra is the area of seats directly in front of the stage (called "primafila" or "platea"); the term more properly applies to the place in a theater or concert hall set apart for the musicians.

The modern symphony orchestra consists of around 20 different musical instruments. There are four main groups: Strings (violin, viola, cello, bass, and harp), Woodwinds (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon) Brass (trumpet, horn, trombone and tuba), and Percussion (including the piano). Can you find all of them at the theater?

The word “philharmonic” means “love of music.” Your orchestra is called the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra because it is located in the city of Rochester, New York and the person who started it (George Eastman) loved music and recognized the value of having an orchestra in the community.

If you were to start up a neighborhood or classroom orchestra, what would you call it? Think of special characteristics that you could include in the name.
Meet George Eastman!

“The progress of the world depends almost entirely upon education.”

1854-1932
- He was the founder of the Eastman Kodak Company and a well-known philanthropist.
- He developed a plan to support the Eastman School of Music, the Eastman Theatre and a professional symphony orchestra “For the Enrichment of Community Life.”
- He loved music and often had live musicians playing in his home.

History of the Theatre
- The Eastman Theatre opened in 1922 and was a gift from Mr. Eastman to the University of Rochester.
- The building cost $6,650,000 and was originally used for both music and motion pictures.
- There are three levels to the theatre (Orchestra, Mezzanine and the Balcony) which together hold over 3,000 seats.
- Kilbourn Hall is named for his mother Maria Kilbourn.
- The stage was renovated during the summer of 2004.

Chandelier Trivia
- The beautiful chandelier is 14 feet wide and 18 feet tall, and weighs 2.5 tons.
- There are 20,000 individual pieces of crystal from Italy and the Czech Republic, as well as over 1,200 light bulbs and 300 strings of glass.
- The chandelier is lowered once every other year for cleaning and bulb replacement.
- In the 1950s some sections of the coffers fell into the unoccupied theatre, but otherwise the chandelier has never fallen.

Link up to learn more about George Eastman and the Eastman Theatre!

George Eastman History
- http://www.eastman.org/2_aboutge/2_index.htm

Eastman Theatre Renovations
- http://www.rochester.edu/eastman/theatre/
Concert Manners

Going to a concert may be a new experience for your students. The following guidelines will help them and those around them enjoy the concert more fully.

♫ Concert manners begin the moment your bus drives up to the Eastman Theatre. A volunteer will lead you from your bus to the Theatre. You will be asked to walk in a single-file line to your seating area. Please stay together. The Eastman Theatre is a big place!

♫ After you are shown to your seats, all teachers and students are asked to remain seated. When people are standing and talking in the aisles, it takes us much longer to get everyone seated.

♫ At this time, you’ll notice the musicians warming up onstage. Just as an athlete warms up before a big game, the musicians have to, also. Watch them to see if they do anything you don’t expect.

♫ Then the lights will go down and you’ll know the concert is about to start. When the concertmaster walks onstage, clap enthusiastically! He will tune the orchestra.

♫ After the concertmaster sits down, your conductor, Michael Butterman, will walk onstage. Again, clap loudly for Maestro Butterman and the musicians. Then get ready to listen!

♫ While the music is playing, listen and watch carefully. Think about things you learned from the lessons in this packet. Keep your hands to yourself and do your best to sit still.

♫ Sometimes Maestro Butterman might ask the audience a question. This is your turn to add to the concert experience! Please answer him so he knows you are listening. When he turns to face the musicians, you should be silent and get ready to listen actively again.

♫ If a neighbor is talking, try to ignore them, or quietly get the attention of your teacher.

♫ After the orchestra plays the last piece, someone will walk onstage and give a few brief closing comments and begin dismissing you. When you leave to find your bus, please stay together in a single-file line.

♫ On your way back to school, talk to your friends about what you saw and heard. Tell them your favorite piece and ask them what their favorite piece was. Maybe your teacher can quiz you on instrumental families! You can write a letter to the RPO when you arrive back in your classroom. Be sure and tell your parents about the concert when you get home.