

Exploring Music



Course Overview

Exploring Music is for the fifth grade aged elementary student who is new to the K¹² Music program. This course presents the basics of traditional music appreciation through the singing and the study of music in history and culture. Students begin by studying some of the most important classical composers, and then study traditional music from around the country and around the world. Finally, they learn how to follow the form of a piece of music.

The course opens with the study of composers from the Baroque and Classical periods. Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven are all studied with a focus on their lives and the impact of their times on the music they created. Students then study the traditional music of the major cultural regions of the world, Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. Students learn how the music of these cultures fit into the history and daily life of the people, and learn to

identify some of the unique instruments in these cultures.

Students then return to their study of composers, studying the lives and music of Romantic and early Modern period composers. They learn about the expansion of emotional expression in the music of composers like Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and Tchaikovsky. They also see how a renewed interest in national culture helped inspire the music of Dvorak, Mussorgsky and Bartok. And they learn about the revolutionary changes in music at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Students then take more time to study the music and cultures of the regions of the United States. They focus on how the history and ethnicity of areas of our country is reflected in its music. Finally, they study five of the most important forms of music, learning to recognize and map the structure of many different pieces of music.

Course Outline

Composers of the Baroque and Classical Era

Though the history of music stretches back almost a thousand years, many of music's greatest composer lived in the last three centuries. Learn about music of the early 18th century, a period known as the Baroque period and discover how the great changes in society at this time is reflected in the music of the time.

- Music of the Baroque
- About Handel
- J. S. Bach
- Papa Haydn
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Mr. Beethoven

Music From Around the World

Learn about music from many different cultures around the world. What makes the music different? What makes it similar?

- Folk Music From Europe
- African Music, African Rhythm
- The Caribbean
- Music of the Middle East
- Japan and China
- Travel the World in Music

Romantic and Modern Composers

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw the greatest period of change in the history of the world. Learn how the ideas and events of these turbulent times have influenced the composers of these exciting centuries.

- Music in the Romantic Era
- The Story of a Friendship
- The Nationalist Composers

- Debussy—The French Impressionist
- Bartok—The Hungarian Genius
- Two Russians

All American Music

Journey westward across the United States and explore the folk music of the various regions of the country. See how each new wave of immigrants helped shape the music and culture of the land.

- The Music of New England
- Good Old Mountain Music
- African American Folk Music Traditions
- Music of the First Americans
- Music of the Great Plains
- Westward Ho
- The Rise of Popular Music
- I Know American Music

Composing Music—The Big Forms

To understand most music you need to listen for the form. Form is like a roadmap of a piece. Explore some of the major forms of classical music, including the biggest one of all—the symphony!

- Three-Part Song Form
- Theme and Variations
- The Rondo
- The Sonata-Allegro
- Beethoven's Fifth
- Bach and the Fugue
- Map That Music!
- Recognizing Form