

Topeka symphony orchestra
School Days Concert 2021-2022
World Travelers Concert



Teacher packet prepared by

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for the Topeka Symphony Orchestra

Music from different cultures can instantly **transport** you to another land.

When we hear bagpipes...we think of Scotland.



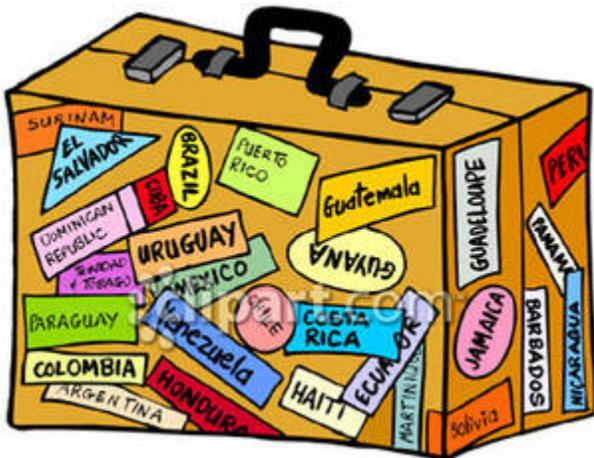
When we hear castanets...we picture Spain.



When we hear cowboy music, we think of the American West.



So grab your suitcase...



...because at this concert we'll be traveling all around the globe with music that will take us...

to a colorful village in Spain and the vast lands of ancient Russia,
to the beautiful Danube River in Europe,
to the wilds of the American West and the frozen Scottish isles,
and to the imaginary lands of Middle Earth and a galaxy far, far away!

Georges Bizet—Overture to the Opera **Carmen**



The first place we will visit is **southern Spain** with the overture to the opera **Carmen**. **Carmen** is the story of Don José, a naïve soldier who is seduced by the wiles of the fiery gypsy Carmen. José abandons his childhood sweetheart and deserts from his military duties for Carmen, yet ultimately loses Carmen's love to the glamorous toreador Escamillo, after which José kills her in a jealous rage.

Bizet wanted to create an authentic Spanish flavor to create the scene for his opera. He used Spanish folk songs and art songs throughout the score, and drew on the rhythms and instrumentation associated with flamenco music. The music is lively, fiery, passionate, and alluring.

LISTEN AND WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmuFOuh3QHs>

Johann Strauss—The Blue Danube Waltz



Our next stop will be on the Danube River of Europe. Johann Strauss composed elegant waltzes for the courts of Vienna, where we can imagine swirling ball gowns, elegant parties, and the beautiful Blue Danube River itself, winding through the valleys of central Europe past castles, vineyards, lush forests, and port cities.

LISTEN AND WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLyn9RVPGSM>

Alexander Borodin—Polovstian Dance #3



Next we travel to Russia, with music that conjures the wild tribes fighting for control of the vast snow-covered tundra, rocky mountains, and the courts of Medieval Russia. Borodin's **Polovstian Dances** tell the story of Prince Igor and his epic quest to protect Mother Russia from the nomadic invaders from the West. It is dramatic, powerful, and truly Russian.

LISTEN AND WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2dKNIfex0U>

Aaron Copland's Hoedown



We go next to the American West with Copland's **Hoedown** from his cowboy suite Rodeo. In **Hoedown** you'll hear shuffling cowboy dances, galloping horses, cowhands clapping, and a true musical portrait of life in a Western town.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsReWx9XdNs>

John Powell--How to Train Your Dragon



The story of “How to Train Your Dragon” takes place in a mythical Viking world where a young Viking teenager named Hiccup aspires to follow his tribe's tradition of becoming a dragon slayer. After finally capturing his first dragon, he finds that he no longer wants to kill it and instead befriends it. The score is a compilation of giddily soaring melodies to evoke dragon flight and powerful dance numbers using bagpipes and penny whistles to conjure the folk music traditions of Celtic and Scottish cultures.

LISTEN AND WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niui3JHdN1U>

Howard Shore—Lord of the Rings Suite



Music can even take us to imaginary locations, like in the score Howard Shore composed for the epic trilogy “The Lord of the Rings.” Shore created a musical landscape reminiscent of medieval folk melodies in the English and Irish musical traditions, including songs and chant.

LISTEN AND WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywERL6h8ep8>

John Williams—Star Wars

With his score for Star Wars, John Williams almost single-handedly created the twentieth-century musical vocabulary for space music. He did draw on previous composers' space music, as well, including Gustav Holst's **The Planets**. He created a score that is dramatic, evokes open space, and depicts spaceships in battle and mysterious other worlds.

LISTEN AND WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucvIJxDyKAA&list=PL5451AECD2438C404>