

5th Grade American Composer Project

You are going to listen to and review the music of three great American composers: John Williams, Leonard Bernstein, and Aaron Copland. You will then choose one of two projects; both of these projects are based on your opinions on the music that you will be listening to.

PROJECT A:

You will create an online iTunes press kit for the composer of your choosing. You will create a greatest hits album (featuring the songs you listened to)

- ✓ Your album will need a title
- ✓ You will need to create the artwork for the album
- ✓ You will write a brief description/iTunes review (1 paragraph) that helps to sell the album.
- ✓ You will write 3 to 5 customer reviews of your composer's music (can be positive or critical).
 - Your reviews must state what you liked or didn't like about either the composer as a whole or individual songs on the album
 - Your opinions should be backed up by a musical reason
 - Your review should have a creative and short title
 - You can make up the name of the person who posted the review
 - Your reviews must contain a star rating (how many stars, out of 5, would you give the album)

PROJECT B:

You are a writer for Rolling Stone magazine. You will write a review of the "Greatest Hits" album of the composer of your choosing.

- ✓ Your review should contain whether you liked or did not like the album
- ✓ Your review should give valid musical reasons to support your opinion
- ✓ Your review should mention at least one of the songs that we listened to (you may also use a piece that we did not listen to)
- ✓ Your review should be 2 to 3 paragraphs long
- ✓ Your review may include 'pretend' quotes from others who listened to the album
- ✓ You should create the artwork of the album cover

GRADING RUBRIC

iTunes Press Kit

	4	3	2	1
iTunes Review	Review contained opinions that were backed up by multiple musical reasons	Review contained opinion backed up by some musical reasons	Review contained opinion backed up non musical reasons	Review contained opinions, but was not backed up
Customer Reviews	Contained 3 or more customer reviews that were creative, shared opinions, and were backed up by musical reasons	Contained 3 customer reviews, that shared opinions, and were somewhat backed up by musical reasons	Contained 3 or less customer reviews that shared opinions and were backed up by non musical reasons	Contained 3 or less customer reviews that shared opinions, but were not backed up
Effort	Student an extraordinary amount of effort into this project	Student put a lot of effort into this project	Student put some effort into this project	Student put no effort into this project
Album Artwork	Completed	n/a	n/a	Not Completed

TOTAL SCORE: _____

Rolling Stones Article

	4	3	2	1
Article: Opinion/Reasons	Review contained opinions that were backed up by multiple musical reasons	Review contained opinion backed up by some musical reasons	Review contained opinion backed up non musical reasons	Review contained opinions, but was not backed up
Composer's Pieces of Music	Reviewer mentioned 2 or more pieces and shared their opinions on these pieces	Reviewer mentioned 1 or 2 pieces and shared their opinions on these pieces	Reviewer mentioned 1 piece and shared their opinions on these pieces	Reviewer did not mention any specific pieces of music
Effort	Student an extraordinary amount of effort into this project	Student put a lot of effort into this project	Student put some effort into this project	Student put no effort into this project
Album Artwork	Completed	n/a	n/a	Not Completed

TOTAL SCORE: _____

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: JOHN WILLIAMS

Song 1: "Olympic Fanfare & Theme"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: JOHN WILLIAMS

Song 2: "Hedwig's Theme"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: JOHN WILLIAMS

Song 3: "Raiders of the Lost Arc"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Song 1: "Candide Overture"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Song 2: "Mambo Presto"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: LEONARD BERSTEIN

Song 3: "Times Square - 1944"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: AARON COPLAND

Song 1: "Fanfare for the Common Man"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: AARON COPLAND

Song 2: "Hoe Down"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?

REPORTER/REVIEWER NOTES

COMPOSER: AARON COPLAND

Song 3: "Billy the Kid"

List Instruments that You Feel Play an Important Role In This Piece and Why:

Do any musical elements (dynamics, tempo, mood, smooth/choppy) affect how you feel about the piece? Why?

Describe the music in your own words (use adjectives):

Do you like it? Why or Why not?