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Another ABC Presentation

American Band College of
Sam Houston State University



Suite of Old American Dances

Robert Russell Bennett

Historical Perspective

It is important for us, as musicians, to know something about the composer and the piece we are performing. If we approach Handel as we would Mahler – the results would be a musical disaster. Lets dive in and learn a bit about Bennett and his *Suite of Old American Dances*.

1. Describe Bennett's childhood and the influence of his parents:

2. Why was Bennett's move to NYC one of the most important events in his musical life?

3. How do you think Bennett's work on Broadway influenced his compositions?

4. Briefly describe the impact of Bennett hearing the Goldman Concert.

5. Why do you think Bennett did not compose more for Band?

11-12 Questions for Research (Answer only 1 on a separate sheet of paper)

1. How did Bennett's love of Broadway impact his musical choices as compared to his contemporary composers such as Webern, Schoenberg, and Copland?

or

2. What pieces were programmed on the Goldman Band's concert that Bennett had attended to make him fall in love with the sounds of the Wind Band?

Suite of Old American Dances

Robert Russell Bennett

Listening

Listening is one of the most important tools a musician can use to properly play and perform a piece of music. It is important to listen beyond just “radio listening” (in other words mindlessly jamming to the tune) and really develop the ability to listen at a higher level.

One tool that we can use to enhance our performance of a piece is to listen to works by the same composer, as well as other composers of the same time period and region. Please complete the table below as we listen to the *Suite of Old American Dances* as well as 4 others.

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Suite of Old American Dances

Robert Russell Bennett

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Composer:	Year:
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Overture to Candide

Leonard Bernstein

Historical Perspective

It is important for us, as musicians, to know something about the composer and the piece we are performing. If we approach Handel as we would Mahler – the results would be a musical disaster. Lets dive in and learn a bit about Bernstein and his *Overture to Candide*.

1. Who was the most important influence in Bernstein's early career?

2. Did Bernstein have more of an impact as a conductor or a composer? Why?

3. What genre did Bernstein have the most success composing for?

4. Why was Bernstein placed on surveillance from the FBI?

5. Why do you think Bernstein left his post at the New York Philharmonic?

11-12 Questions for Research (Answer only 1 on a separate sheet of paper)

1. What inspired Bernstein's love of Gustav Mahler's music?

or

2. What international impact did the "Ode to Freedom" concert have?

Overture to Candide

Leonard Bernstein

Listening

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One tool that we can use to enhance our performance of a piece is to listen to works by the same composer, as well as other composers of the same time period and region. Please complete the table below as we listen to the *Overture to Candide* as well as 4 others.

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Overture to Candide

Leonard Bernstein

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Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

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Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

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Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Lincolnshire Posy

Percy Grainger

Historical Perspective

It is important for us, as musicians, to know something about the composer and the piece we are performing. If we approach Handel as we would Mahler – the results would be a musical disaster. Lets dive in and learn a bit about Grainger and his *Lincolnshire Posy*.

1. Briefly describe Percy Grainger's youth.

2. Who were the most important influences on Grainger's musical life?

3. What composition made Grainger a “household” name?

4. What impact would Grainger's experiments have on 20th century music?

5. Which of Grainger's Quirks would be most noticeable in today's society?

11-12 Questions for Research (Answer only 1 on a separate sheet of paper)

1. How did Grieg's love of folk music influence Grainger?

or

2. How did Grainger's anti-Semitism influence his music and career? What things made his beliefs rather unusual?

Lincolnshire Posy

Percy Grainger

Listening

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One tool that we can use to enhance our performance of a piece is to listen to works by the same composer, as well as other composers of the same time period and region. Please complete the table below as we listen to the *Lincolnshire Posy* as well as 4 others.

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Lincolnshire Posy

Percy Grainger

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Symphony in Bb

Paul Hindemith

Historical Perspective

It is important for us, as musicians, to know something about the composer and the piece we are performing. If we approach Handel as we would Mahler – the results would be a musical disaster. Lets dive in and learn a bit about Hindemith and his *Symphony in Bb*.

1. Why do you think Hindemith's time as a performer was important to his compositional career?

2. Why was Hindemith's time in Turkey important?

3. Why are Hindemith's encounters with the Nazi Party important to understand?

4. Why are Historians still debating his role within the Nazi Party?

5. Why was Hindemith's book so "landmark" in music history?

11-12 Questions for Research (Answer only 1 on a separate sheet of paper)

1. Who were some of Hindemith's students?

or

2. Compare and contrast Hindemith's music with Schoenberg's.

Symphony in Bb

Paul Hindemith

Listening

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One tool that we can use to enhance our performance of a piece is to listen to works by the same composer, as well as other composers of the same time period and region. Please complete the table below as we listen to the *Symphony in Bb* as well as 4 others.

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Symphony in Bb

Paul Hindemith

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Second Suite in F

Gustav Holst

Historical Perspective

It is important for us, as musicians, to know something about the composer and the piece we are performing. If we approach Handel as we would Mahler – the results would be a musical disaster. Lets dive in and learn a bit about Holst and his *Second Suite in F*.

1. What family, medical, and other influences do you think impacted Holst's early career?

2. Why is it important to understand what instruments Holst studied in order to understand his music?

3. Describe Wagner's influence musically on Holst.

4. Why do you think Holst became interested in the Wind Band?

5. Who was Holst's most important friendship?

11-12 Questions for Research (Answer only 1 on a separate sheet of paper)

1. What was Holst's most important work – WHY?

or

2. Holst and Grainger were contemporaries around the same time in England. Describe how their music changed after Grainger moved to the United States.

Second Suite in F

Gustav Holst

Listening

Listening is one of the most important tools a musician can use to properly play and perform a piece of music. It is important to listen beyond just “radio listening” (in other words mindlessly jamming to the tune) and really develop the ability to listen at a higher level.

One tool that we can use to enhance our performance of a piece is to listen to works by the same composer, as well as other composers of the same time period and region. Please complete the table below as we listen to the *Second Suite in F* as well as 4 others.

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Second Suite in F

Gustav Holst

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Blue Shades

Frank Ticheli

Historical Perspective

It is important for us, as musicians, to know something about the composer and the piece we are performing. If we approach Handel as we would Mahler – the results would be a musical disaster. Lets dive in and learn a bit about Ticheli and his *Blue Shades*.

1. How did Ticheli's early years impact his music?

2. Do you think it is important that Ticheli taught High School band for 1 semester?

3. How do you think his composer-in-residence position propelled his career?

4. How do you think the “Frank Ticheli Composition Contest” will affect the repertoire of the Wind Ensemble?

5. Can a living composer be considered historically important? Why?

11-12 Questions for Research (Answer only 1 on a separate sheet of paper)

1. Compare and contrast two of Ticheli's pieces.

or

2. Do you as a performer, enjoy playing Ticheli's music. Be very specific!

Blue Shades

Frank Ticheli

Listening

Listening is one of the most important tools a musician can use to properly play and perform a piece of music. It is important to listen beyond just “radio listening” (in other words mindlessly jamming to the tune) and really develop the ability to listen at a higher level.

One tool that we can use to enhance our performance of a piece is to listen to works by the same composer, as well as other composers of the same time period and region. Please complete the table below as we listen to the *Blue Shades* as well as 4 others.

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Blue Shades

Frank Ticheli

Title of Piece:	
Composer:	Year:
Briefly describe the style:	
Briefly describe the instruments used:	
Did you enjoy the piece? Why?	

Title of Piece:	
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