

**1. Grandpa's Tree Swing****4**

## STUDENT SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT:

You are on vacation and have just arrived at your grandfather's farm. Just outside the barn, there is a huge tree with large, fat branches. On one of the branches holds a brand new swing, just for you! Grandpa made it himself with a long thick rope and a tractor tire. You run to the swing, get on, and start swinging as high as the swing allows. As you swing back and forth, there are three words that quickly come to mind that describe your experience. Those words are:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Good King Wenceslas****10**

*Good King Wenceslas* is a Christmas carol that was first published in 1853. English priest and hymn writer J.M. Neale wrote the lyrics, and set them to a much older melody from the sixteenth century.

When Neale wrote his lyrics, he drew upon St. Wenceslas's legend. The carol's lyrics tell the story of Wenceslas on a wintry night, seeing a poor peasant. Wenceslas gives him food and shelter. The last line of the last verse gives the moral of the song, which says that when those who have plenty give to the poor, they also end up receiving a gift of blessing: "Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing."

**3. Aura Lee****15**

The melody of *Aura Lee* was written by George Poulton (1828–1867) in 1861, with lyrics by William Whiteman Fosdick (1825–1862). It was written for a popular type of theater in America called a minstrel show. Shortly after the song was published, the American Civil War broke out, and *Aura Lee* became a favorite of the soldiers on both sides of the battle lines. Its lyrics tell of a beautiful girl named Aura Lee, which perhaps reminded soldiers of their loved ones back home.

The melody of *Aura Lee* has been set to new lyrics many times since its creation. The most famous rewrite by far is *Love Me Tender*, written for Elvis Presley in 1956, which used Poulton's melody set to new lyrics. Presley was at the peak of his early fame as a rock 'n' roll singer, and his recording of *Love Me Tender* quickly became the number one song in America after its release.

**4. Jingle Bells****20**

*Jingle Bells* was copyrighted in 1857 with the title "One Horse Open Sleigh." The original selling price was 2.5 cents. In 1859, it was republished under the title *Jingle Bells*. The word "jingle" is said to have been a command to the bells. The song was inspired by the Medford, Massachusetts sleigh races, popular during the 1800s.

**5. The Yellow Rose of Texas****26**

Certain songs go beyond popularity to become a part of the heritage of a particular place. *The Yellow Rose of Texas* is one of these songs. Since it was first published in 1858, it has been sung, altered, and ultimately accepted by the people of Texas as one of the state's iconic songs.

*The Yellow Rose of Texas* was first published in 1858, and copies of the sheet music sold rapidly. The lyrics to the song came from an earlier minstrel show (1853) created by a troupe called Christy's Minstrels. The 1858 sheet-music version featured added music by someone known to us only as "JK." When the American Civil War began just a few years later in 1861, *Yellow Rose* became a favorite of soldiers. They would sing ballads in their camps between battles. It was one of a set of such tunes, which also included *Dixie*, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and *Aura Lee*. Sung from the perspective of a man longing to see a beautiful girl from Texas, it perhaps reminded the soldiers of their own loved ones back home. After the war, the song was claimed by Texans as a matter of local pride. In the twentieth century, the song rose and fell in popularity, but it has become one of America's "folk" tunes, and the pride of Texas.

**6. The Great Gate of Kiev from Pictures at an Exhibition, Movement No. 10****33**

*The Great Gate of Kiev*, the 10th and final movement from Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* (1874), was inspired by a design contest for a gate for Russian Tsar Alexander II. The gate was supposed to simulate a Slavonic shaped helmet (corresponding to the heroes of Russian epics). The design for the gate did win the national competition, but the project was never executed. In the design, one side of the triumphal gate is a tall bell tower. Bells were present everywhere in Russian society, used for celebration, commemoration, warning, or public mourning, and Mussorgsky incorporates bell sounds into the full orchestral setting to represent that national custom.

## 7. Up on the Housetop

38

Composed in 1860 by Benjamin Hanby, it is very possibly the first American carol to feature Santa Claus in the lyrics. He was inspired by the popular 1822 poem by Clement C. Moore entitled, "The Night Before Christmas."

## 8. Black Arrow

46

An arrow is a sharp, and pointed weapon that is shot from a bow. Early arrows or arrowheads were made of stone, bone, or metal. Arrows or arrowheads discovered in archeological digs in North America were thought to have been used to kill large game such as buffalo and deer thousands of years ago. They were also used in warfare. A type of black rock especially used by Ancient Egyptians to make arrows included obsidian.

## 9. Jolly Fiddler

52

When hearing the words fiddle or fiddling, the first thing that comes to mind is folk music. There is a deep and rich history originating in different parts of the world, and most of the music is based on aural traditions. *The Jolly Fiddler*, an original work by Woolstenhulme, plays tribute to traditional old time American fiddling music.

## 10. Oh Hanukkah

59

*Oh Hanukkah* is a popular English song for the celebration of Hanukkah. Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish holiday celebrating the dedication of the second temple in Jerusalem in the second century B.C.E. It is celebrated over the course of eight days and nights, by each day lighting a new candle on the menorah (the distinctive candle-holder used especially for the holiday). In the lyrics of *Oh Hanukkah*, the singers eagerly call for the holiday festivities to begin in earnest, including lighting the menorah, group dancing of the horah (a circle dance), eating latkes (potato pancakes), and playing a popular spinning top game with dreidels.

## 11. Mystery at Diamond Rock

66

STUDENT SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT:

The very best mystery-themed TV shows and movies include background music that adds to the suspense and drama of the story. *Mystery at Diamond Rock* could easily serve as special music for a mystery movie. But what's the story line and who are the main characters? You decide! Write a short, short story based on the music you and your orchestra are playing.

## 12. The Happy Farmer

72

German composer Robert Schumann (1810-1856) wrote symphonies, chamber works, vocal and choral music, and many pieces for solo piano. *The Happy Farmer* arranged in this collection for strings, is originally for solo piano. Schumann wrote it and other short piano pieces for his three young daughters. Back in the 1800s it was difficult to find music for students learning to play piano, so he wrote music for them to learn and enjoy.

## 13. Theme from Beethoven's 5th

78

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) is one of the most famous classical composers of all time and to this day, his fifth symphony remains an all time favorite around the world. When Beethoven started writing his fifth symphony around 1805 his hearing was poor and was getting worse. Imagine not being able to hear yourself or others speak or play music. This caused depression and anger for him and he withdrew from most social events and concerts. The Fifth Symphony, however, shows him being determined to compose amazing music in spite of his deafness. Beethoven's creative genius produced one of the most significant impacts in music history.

## 14. Thanksgiving Day Song (We Gather Together)

86

In America, the hymn *We Gather Together* is associated with the celebration of Thanksgiving. Beginning in the early twentieth century, it was sung as families gathered around the table together for the Thanksgiving meal. For many Americans, then, this melody is intimately linked to the smell of turkey and pumpkin pie, the taste of cranberry sauce, and the tradition of being with family. The song has also been used in educational settings, sung by students during the Thanksgiving school season. But even though the English version has a strongly American presence, this song is actually Dutch in origin. It was written in 1597 as a hymn celebrating the Dutch's military victory over the Spanish.

## 15. Minuet (attr. Pezold)

91

Music included in the 1725 *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach* was considered to be composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. That is, until the 1970s. This Minuet and one other in the keyboard collection are now attributed to Christian Pezold (1677-1733). Pezold was a superb German organist and composer.