

Title of Session: Music Across the Curriculum - Music and Literature

Moderator: Leo LaBarge

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Room: ArtsSites Group

BJB2: Welcome to today's Music Across the Curriculum discussion

BJB2: this month's topic is Music and Literature

BJB2: Leo, can we start with introductions?

LeoL: Sure, I'm Leo Labarge, musician and teacher currently in a middle school for emotionally disturbed kids

LoraAB: middle school math, science, social studies teacher NJ

FredK: I am a literacy tutor in SE Oklahoma

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler - a Tapped In HelpDesk volunteer. I also lead a math education and technology discussion here. I'm in northern New Jersey, near New York City

DebbieM: I'm Deb, a tech coordinator, K-8 computer instructor in Indianapolis

LesG: I am Les Greenwood, sixth grade in San Jose CA, multi subject, originally from NJ but relocated due to cold wife.

DavidWe . o O (way to go, New Jersey!)

DavidWe: So, the topic this evening, according to the calendar is Music and Literature

LeoL: This one was kind of hard. Lora was a huge help.

LeoL: many ways to go

LeoL: I started out by thinking about literature as storytelling

BJB2: cool

LeoL: you've got historical period.. common to say a novel setting

SusanR listens

LeoL: equivalent to a style of music

LeoL: it limits the potential "vocabulary" of both the notes and harmonies available and the potential situations the characters could find themselves in

LoraAB: many cultures use music to tell folktales

LeoL: the lyrics tell the story explicitly there

BJB2 . o O (what about dialects in dialogue? That might be a connection also)

LeoL: excellent

LeoL: habits of speech in the novels+habits of style in the music

LeoL: * =

LesG: you could also link it to various ancient civilizations to develop parallels between music from the era and the development of the culture. Music history is also interesting to discuss

LeoL: <http://www.pbs.org/jazz/classroom/blackandblue.htm>

LeoL: Black and Blue: Jazz in Ralph Ellison's Invisible

LeoL: for the style connections

LeoL: a lot of stuff with Langston Hughes also

LeoL: Les has a great point also

LesG: Toni Morrison seems to provide many opportunities for this connection too

BJB2 nods

LeoL: tracing the history of a culture thru its literature and music

LeoL: go on there Les

LesG: gets some of the more linear thinkers excited about music and allows for a little spice to ancient Mesopotamia

LeoL: there is so much available... I want to hear as much from each of you as I can

LesG: it also seems that if you discuss the development of "tool" you can discuss the development of instruments

LeoL: nice.. very nice

LeoL: for a more structural approach (I'm a drummer. I like scaffolding)
<http://www.pbs.org/jazz/classroom/storyimprov.htm>

LeoL: Improvise a Short Story

LesG: how they effected the mindset of the individual and the community...from hunters and gathers to a unified series of cities and ideologies, where does music fit in and how might they have influenced each other.

LesG: the idea of specialization and how the parts of a band or orchestra might be likened to the development of a system of civilized living (basic community structure)

LeoL: that's some great stuff Les!

LesG: good graphic organizers?

LesG: thx

LesG: the basic premise of the development of civilization to the development of music...the creation of organized communication via sound and other forms of expression is integral to the teachings of middle school curriculum

LesG: you could also link it to various ancient civilizations to develop parallels between music from the era and the development of the culture. music history is also interesting to discuss

BJB2 smiles...live and learn

LesG: that is a great one thx

LeoL: great .. what kinds of things get communicated?

LeoL: development of themes?

LesG: example: ancient china- the use of cannons and other basic noises to signal troop movements along the wall

LeoL: (literature wise)

BJB2: movie sound tracks would be an example of what Les is describing also?

LesG: in literature (woman warrior) we can find links to lyrical development and tempo/meter that links the development of the female figure in early literature and myth with the concepts most basic to music theory

LeoL: I keep thinking about matching the "mood" of a story to the mood of a piece of music

LesG: indeed with the various modes used for specific tones and structures

LeoL: yeah!!! Now were talking!!

LoraAB: Like Woody Guthie's music and the Grape of Wrath

DavidWe smiles

LeoL: yup

LesG: oh I have something for you on that

LesG: how do I send a file

LesG: I have a mpeg you have to see I developed it for my students last year

LesG: Guthrie and a photo montage of the dustbowl

LeoL: I guess you could hang it in the room BJB?

BJB2 nods

FredK: Bj did remind us of the file "overall document for 12-11-05 discussion music and lit.doc" in the ArtsSites room.

LesG: how do I upload it?

LeoL: Lessons from the rock and roll hall of fame dealing with literature

LeoL: <http://www.rockhall.com/programs/plans.asp>

LeoL: lesson 11 is Guthrie

LoraAB: How about Romeo and Juliet and West Side Story

LeoL: right . TX Lora

LeoL: we can look at the whole tradition of librettos

LeoL: turning novels into musicals

LeoL: questions of theme . mood and style keep coming up

LeoL: suppose we consider a novel that portrays a person thru various stages in her life?

SusanR: The Woman in White based on Wilkie Collins Gothic novel

LeoL: tell me more Susan. I'm really not that literate :)

SusanR: it was a musical thriller..

LeoL: The Woman in White was the musical?

SusanR: A Lloyd Weber..played in New York and London

LesG: indeed

LoraAB: similar to Phantom of the opera

LeoL: I like that. Let's go look for ways we can get kids to translate material from one art form to another

LeoL: There are the structural parallels, phrase and period in music akin to sentence and paragraph in writing

LesG: Is the Woman in White appropriate for small group instruction or

LesG: would you have to differentiate?

LoraAB: Have students take something simple as Seuss and write or create music to it

LeoL: but looking at novels and longer length stories kind of forces us to look for parallels in larger aspect of music

SusanR: or Shakespeare and create a rap

LeoL: like harmonic vocabulary, mood , and overall structure

BJB2: Suess' My Many Colored Days

LeoL: and another thing that BJB just reminded me of

SusanR: Green Eggs and Ham

DavidWe . o O (Sam I am!)

LeoL: the relationship between color and timbre

FredK . o O (Grinch)

LeoL: Wagner too... with the leitmotif

LesG: symphonic structure and epic development: Beowulf vs. Tristan und Isolde

LesG: to bring in Wagner again

LeoL: Prokofiev and Peter and the Wolf

LesG: Tommy and the Who

LeoL: great Les!

BJB2: www.richardeinhorn.com/MMCD/MMCDIndex.html

LoraAB: build on the simple to the more complex

LeoL: all the "concept " albums of the 70's

LeoL: Yes

LesG: I think they can access some of the material safely

LeoL: Tales of Topographic Oceans

LesG: I worry about drug content in The Wall but its no worse than public access these days

LeoL: and Jethro Tull

LesG: Lord knows PBS and CBS don't pull there punches anymore

LesG: sooo.

LesG: I think it's a legitimate angle

LoraAB: eventually they could take any piece of literature and place it in a music format

LesG: having video to indicate the changes in style and atmosphere also lend itself to the development of a story line or hero cycle

FredK . o O (Gershwin)

LeoL: so we are looking at music as accompaniment... or as main course

LesG: I think it has to balance...introduce with one

BJB2: www.minnesotaorchestra.org/boxoffice/video_detail.cfm?video=39848047

LeoL: Gershiwin has me thinking about opera

LesG: expand with the other

LeoL: Good

LesG: then refrain and switch the emphasis

LeoL: what about the stories of Cole Porter?

LeoL: or Jobim?

LesG: dangerous for the public schools back east...too many astute students bringing up the movie...some angles might get you in trouble (legitimate thought they are)

LesG: especially when you view them in the context of his overall compositional career

LeoL: which movie Les?

LesG: which was epic itself, developmentally you can draw parallels to the development of storyline and to writing in general

LesG: Delovely

LesG: Cole Porter story in full, rather honest and well founded in his music

LeoL: Oh. I was thinking about the stories in his lyrics

LeoL: I haven't seen the movie... but I can imagine..

LesG: but history is a legitimate source for those lyrics too

LeoL: yes

LesG: and if you consider the historical frame of reference it becomes even more stark

LeoL: The rock and Roll hall of fame has got some very good lessons about literary devices

LesG: and more valuable. the writing of the period...Salinger

LesG: and Gatsby

LoraAB: how about taking a novel like to Kill a Mockingbird and relate it to the blues by showing the movie

LeoL: Good Les. That's what I was driving at earlier... the connection between style in the music and the literature of particular eras

LesG: I like that...it would be neat to see what they make of the differences in social order in the book...and link it to the music of each demographic...good history link

LesG: it is also a great example for the introduction of blues and gospel...the church scenes from the book

LesG: very visual and an opportunity for developing stylistically the writing process

LeoL: you could examine the treatment of the people by the perception of their music

LeoL: what are the parallels between styles of writing and styles of music?

DavidWe has no clue

LeoL: sure man...

DavidWe smiles

LoraAB: Harlem Renaissance and Jazz

LeoL: harsh strident writing very angular

LesG: freeform vs haiku

LeoL: looks like we're talking adjectives here

LesG: the regimented vs the loose constructionist

LeoL: aye

LesG: and the use of literary devices to express musical thoughts and ideas to an audience for the purposes of expanding vocabulary and artistry in writing

LeoL: hehe composed vs improvised (On The Road)

LesG: can be very effective for students who maybe don't have an interest in music but love a good book

LesG: nice

LeoL: folk music and folk writing

LoraAB: personification Hendrix the wind Cries Mary

LesG: rondo and sci fi writing

LesG: the cyclical story which recreates a specific image different ways to develop a sense of ennui

LesG: very effective in music and in writing

LesG: Philip K. Dick was a master of this

LeoL: rondo and ... "Run Lola Run"

LesG: awesome

LesG: i never thought of that

LesG: verrrrry cool

LeoL: (Simpsons did a rip-off of Run Lola Run too)

LesG: I did see that one

LesG: very neat

LesG: the music of Blade Runner

LesG: think of the scope and sequences of that

LesG: relate it to the book do androids dream of electric sheep

LeoL: hehe I GOTTA get out more

LesG: Vangelis really hit something with both that piece and chariots of fire...creating a whole image musically and spinning a story into it

LesG: naw more fun in here

LesG: out there is scary

LesG: and cold

LeoL: I wonder if the images could provide a common ground

LesG: absolutely

LeoL: at any rate... I gotta get...

LeoL: bout that time

LesG: look at the creation of a short story as linked to fantasia

LeoL: Les.. we have got to talk some more

LesG: each a small part of a whole but independent on their own

LesG: ok

LesG: I would like that

LeoL: Me too

LeoL: I'd like to thank everyone for coming

FredK: Gave us lots to think about tonight

DavidWe: Thanks for the discussion, Leo

LeoL: Fred David, Susan thanks

LeoL: Nice meeting you Les!

LesG: thank you Leo, next time I'll talk less...rim shot...thanks folks try the veal nite!

LesG: you too

LeoL: As always... thanks to BJB and Lora

DavidWe waves

BJB2: Leo leads this discussion on the second Monday of the Month...next one is January 8

LeoL: oh I forgot

LoraAB: math

LeoL: You might want to check out the links and the file hanging in the room

BJB2: thanks for your help, Lora

LoraAB: you're welcome

LeoL: overall document for 12-11

FredK: It is in the transcript

LeoL: some links Fred. Lora found a bunch of them

FredK: great

LeoL: If you're not hip to the RnR hall of Fame, please check it out

LesG: sounds good

LeoL: it's all on the document

LeoL: Les, you might want to go and look around my office, more stuff there

BJB2 waves goodnight. Thanks, everyone, for your input...amazing discussion!

FredK: Thanks, got to go, bye

DavidWe hugs BJ

LesG: done, thanks for the offer