



*Let's go around our nation with songs and activities to learn about musical roots.*

## Meet the Music “R” U.S. Characters

**Uncle Sam:** On September 7, 1813, the United States gets its nickname, Uncle Sam. The name is linked to Samuel Wilson, a meat packer from Troy, New York, who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson used to stamp the barrels with “U.S.” for United States, but soldiers began referring to the grub as “Uncle Sam’s.” The local newspaper picked up on the story and Uncle Sam eventually gained widespread acceptance as the nickname for—and personification of—the U.S. federal government. Artist depictions were later used on posters during WW. I and II.

### Rosie the Riveter

Rosie the Riveter was the star of a campaign aimed at recruiting female workers to build ships and work in factories during World War II, and she became perhaps the most popular image of working women. Many American women started working in jobs outside the home during the war because so many men were joining the military, leaving gaping holes in the industrial labor force. Between 1940 and 1945, nearly one out of every four married women worked outside the home.

### Narrator

Alanna Dixon, *Music Matters!* Apprentice, will guide our journey through the decades and across the nation.



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## Meet the Featured American Composers

### Aaron Copeland

Copeland was considered, “The Dean of American Composers.” He wrote “Fanfare for the Common Man,” which was inspired by a famous 1941 speech in which Vice President Henry Wallace proclaimed the beginning of the “Century of the Common Man”.

### Leonard Bernstein

Composer Leonard Bernstein was considered one of the most talented and successful musicians in American history. “Somewhere” is from Bernstein’s, *West Side Story*. It was inspired by Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*.

### Anton Dvorak

Antonin Dvorak was from Czechoslovakia, but he wrote this Symphony while visiting Ohio. He called the song, “From the New World.” This song was influenced by Native American and folk music.

### George Gershwin

Composer George Gershwin was one of the most significant American composers of the 20th century. His *Porgy and Bess* opera was first performed in 1935, featuring a cast of classically trained African American singers. “Summertime” and “I got plenty of Nothin’” are songs from this opera.

### Scott Joplin

African American composer Scott Joplin was considered The King of Ragtime. He wrote “The Entertainer,” which was used as theme music for the 1973 Oscar-winning film *The Sting*.

### Soon Hee Newbold

Newbold is one of America’s women composers. She was born in South Korea and came to America through adoption. She composed “America Landscape.”

### John Philip Sousa

Sousa is known as the “American March King.” One of his marches is “The Liberty Bell March,” which has been played by The United States Marine Band at the last seven presidential inaugurations.

### John Williams

Williams is an American composer who created some of the most iconic film scores of all time. He has had 50 Oscar nominations, 5 Oscar wins and other awards as well. He composed the music for *Star Wars*, *E.T.*, *Jurassic Park*, *Harry Potter*, and *Schindler’s List*, to name a few.



## Fun Facts About Early American Music

### Native American Music

Native Americans trace the ultimate origin of their traditional music to the time of creation, when specific songs were given to the first people by the Creator and by spirit beings in the mythic past. New songs may come through the visions and dreams of a medicine-man or Shaman. Performance rights are often passed down by inheritance. The traditional instruments of Native Americans include flutes, drums, and rattles. These are made of natural materials such as wood, raw hide, and beads. Many Native Americans consider themselves “children of Mother Earth”. The saying, “we are the land and the land is us” describes that connection.



*Shamanism*



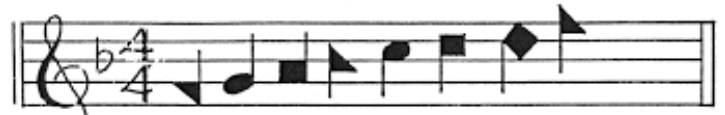
*Harriet Tubman*

### African American Music

During the era of slavery in America, the slaves made up songs that reflected their deep faith in God and their desire to be delivered from bondage and go to the Promised Land, or heaven. Sometimes their songs contained secret messages. That is how they communicated plans for escape through the Underground Railroad, by singing the code songs to each other out in the field as they worked. In fact, it has been said that Harriet Tubman sang the song, “Wade in the Water,” to warn escaping slaves to get into the water so the dogs would not be able to follow their scent.

### Shape Notes

Some of the first American choir singing used the Sacred Harp song book. The notes in the book had different shapes for the solfege notes, or do re mi. The shape for fa is a triangle, sol an oval, la a rectangle, and mi a diamond. Singers sit in a hollow square, according to their parts, and a leader stands in the middle and starts them off. They just sing for enjoyment...no audience, and they sing a cappella without any instruments. The Ensemble Choir will sing a shape note song about the Civil War.



### Fife and Drum Corps

Fife and drum ensembles have been used in battle for centuries in America. Each troupe had their own couple of players who were used to regulate the daily activities of the troops. They signaled when the troops should rise in the morning and go to bed at night, when to eat, when to assemble, and to sound an alarm. The concert will feature the Kootenai *Music Matters!* Percussion playing buckets and kazoos to represent the Fife and Drum Corps.





## Song Lyrics

### Bring Me Little Water, Silvy

Bring me little water, Silvy.  
Bring me little water, now.  
Bring me little water, Silvy,  
Ev'ry little once in awhile

Silvy come a runnin'  
Bucket in my hand.  
I will bring a little water fast as I can.

Can't you see me comin',  
Can't you see me now?  
I will bring a little water  
Ev'ry little once in awhile.

### Song For Mother Earth

The Earth is our Mother, we must take care of her.  
Hey yanna, ho yanna, hey yan yan.  
Her sacred ground we walk upon  
With every step we take,  
Ancient Mother I hear you calling,  
I hear your song.

The Earth is our mother, she will take care of us,  
Ancient Mother, I hear your laughter,  
I taste your tears.

### Wade in the Water

Wade in the water, children  
God is gonna trouble the water.  
See that host all dressed in white.  
The leader looks like the Israelite,  
See that band all dressed in red.  
Looks like the band that Moses led.  
If you don't believe,  
Believe I've been redeemed.  
Just follow me,  
Follow me down to Jordan's stream.

*"Bring Me Little Water, Silvy" was written by Huddie Ledbetter, better known as Lead Belly back in 1936. We aren't sure if he wrote it himself or if he adapted a folk song. He told this story when he performed it: "My Uncle Bob Ledbetter had a wife named Silvy. When he was out plowing with his mules he would often holler for Silvy to bring him some water. After a long time this holler developed into a little song." Silvy may have been a real person or a slave woman on a plantation being implored by someone in the fields to bring him a drink. The origin of the song, and the identity of Silvy, is uncertain.*



### Djembe

*The djembe drum was very important to the slaves who were brought on ships from West Africa to the Americas. They carried their cultural traditions with them, including the playing of the djembe drum. The drum provided a means of communication, preserving their traditions, and a way to resist the oppressive system of slavery. Their masters tried to stop them from playing djembes, but they found ways to continue to play. The concert will feature the Farmin Stidwell Music Matters! Percussion playing the djembe drums.*





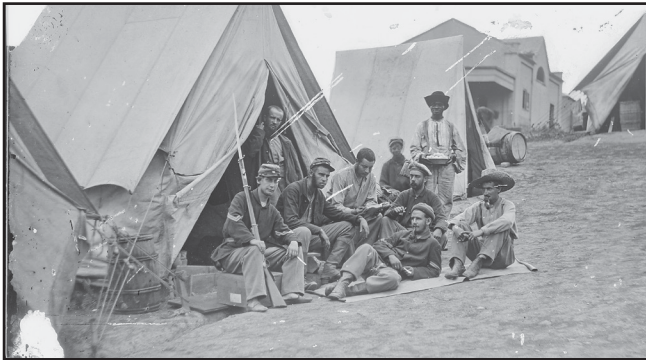
## Song Lyrics

### Skip to My Lou

Skip, skip, skip to my Lou, my darling.  
Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
I'll get another one,  
Skip to my Lou, my darling.  
Little red wagon painted blue,  
Off to Boston, two by two.  
Skip to my Lou, my darling.

### Play Party Games

*In the early 1800s, some early Americans believed that instruments and dancing were sinful, so the teenagers got around that by having play-party games. The games were really dances in disguise, and their feet and hands were the instruments.*



### Tenting on the Old Campground

We're tenting tonight on the old campground,  
Give us a song to cheer  
Our weary hearts, a song of home  
And friends we love so dear.

We are tired of war on the old campground,  
Many are dead and gone,  
Of the brave and true who've left their homes,  
Others been wounded long.  
Many are the hearts that are weary tonight,  
Wishing for the war to cease;  
Many are the hearts looking for the night  
To see the dawn of peace.  
Tenting on the old campground.



## Song Lyrics

### The Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



*"When Johnny Comes Marching Home" was a song written during the Civil War. Patrick Gilmore heard someone humming a tune, so he decided to put words to it in honor of his sister who was praying for her fiancé to make it home safely from the war.*

### *"The Star Spangled Banner"*

*Francis Scott Key, a lawyer, wrote the lyrics on September 14, 1814, after watching the British attack Fort McHenry, Maryland. Key expressed his relief that the flag was still standing, and the new nation won the battle. The melody was a folk tune. The song later became America's national anthem and is sung before most sporting events and special occasions.*

### When Johnny Comes Marching Home

When Johnny comes marching home again  
Hurrah! Hurrah!  
We'll give him a hearty welcome then  
Hurrah! Hurrah!  
Oh, the men will cheer and the boys will shout  
The ladies they will all turn out  
And we'll all feel gay when  
Johnny comes marching home

*"Chattanooga Choo Choo" is a 1941 song by composer Henry Warren, originally recorded as a big band tune by Glen Miller's orchestra. It was featured in the movie "Sun Valley Serenade" and was the first song to receive a gold record award, for sales of 1.2 million copies.*



*"Nearer, My God, to Thee" is a 19th-century Christian hymn by Sarah Flower Adams, which retells the story of Jacob's dream in Genesis. The song is associated with the sinking of the RMS Titanic, as some survivors later reported that the ship's string ensemble played the hymn as the vessel sank.*





## Matching and Coloring Activities

*Have you heard these songs before?*

*Draw a line from each song to the production for which it was written.*

SONG

SOMEWHERE

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO

THE ENTERTAINER

SUMMERTIME/I GOT PLENTY OF NOTHIN'

Production

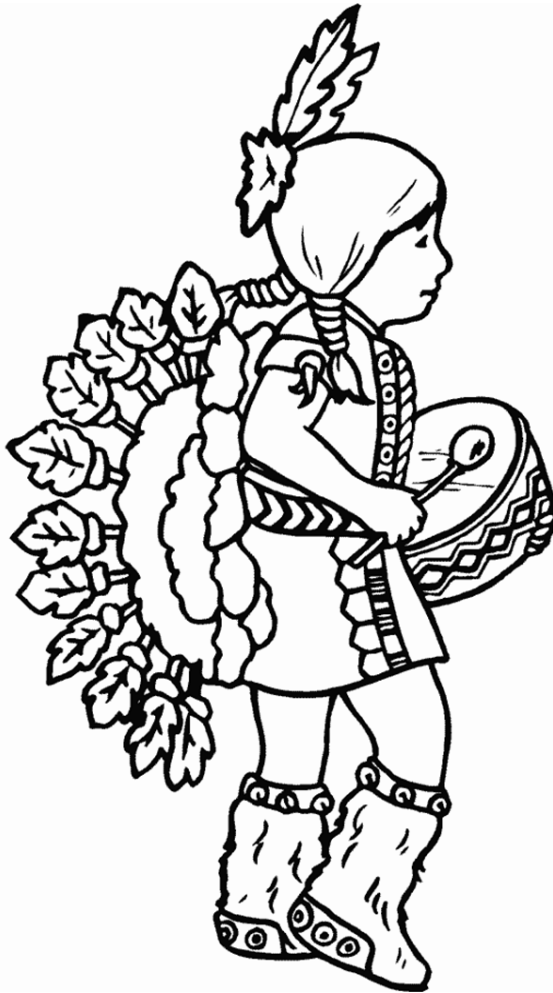
**THE STING**

**PORGY AND BESS**

**THE TITANIC**

**SUN VALLEY SERENADE**

**WEST SIDE STORY**





## Matching Activity 2

### Matching 1-2-3

Draw a line from each composer to the matching characteristic and corresponding song title.

#### SONG TITLE

WEST SIDE STORY

PORGY AND BESS

FANFARE FOR THE COMMON MAN

AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

THE ENTERTAINER

SCHINDLER'S LIST

THE LIBERTY BELL MARCH

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

BRING ME LITTLE WATER SYLVIE

#### COMPOSER

WILLIAMS

BERNSTEIN

COPELAND

GERSHWIN

JOPLIN

NEWBOLD

LEAD BELLY

SOUSA

DVORAK

#### CHARACTERISTIC

**MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

**50 OSCAR NOMINATIONS**

**THE KING OF RAGTIME**

**WOMAN COMPOSER**

**MOST TALENTED & SUCCESSFUL**

**THE AMERICAN MARCH KING**

**AMERICAN FOLK SINGER**

**THE DEAN OF AMERICAN COMPOSERS**

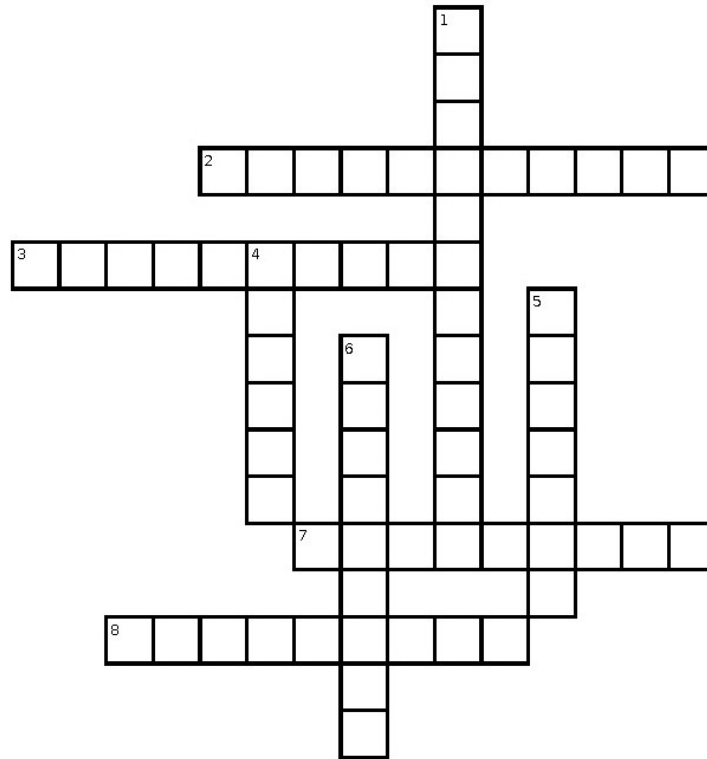
**FOLK AND NATIVE INFLUENCE**







# Crossword Puzzle



## Down:

1. The National Anthem: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner
4. Czechoslovakian composer influenced by America
5. The tool Rosie famously used in her posters
6. The name U.S soldiers called the beef stamped "U.S."

## Across

2. Many Native Americans consider themselves children of \_\_\_\_\_
3. The first American choir singing used the \_\_\_\_\_ song book
7. Huddie Ledbetter was better known as \_\_\_\_\_
8. Early 1800's disguised dances were called \_\_\_\_\_ Games



**Write us a letter telling us about your  
experience at Music "R" U.S.**

Dear Music Conservatory,

When we went to see Music "R" U.S, I enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_

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My favorite part was \_\_\_\_\_

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Because I went to the Panida Theater, I learned \_\_\_\_\_

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On the back of the page, draw a picture that illustrates your favorite song.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Send letter to:

Music Conservatory of Sandpoint  
Attn: Music Matters Director  
P.O. Box 907  
Sandpoint, ID 83864