A close-up of a logo

Description automatically generatedCurricular Materials for “Kaleidoscope of Sound”

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Lesson 2, Featured Soloist: Learning about Concertos

Objectives: Students will sing in a group and some students will sing solos. Students will aurally identify when one instrument is playing vs when many instruments are playing together. Students will be introduced to a few well-known soloists and watch a meet & greet video of the WSSO violin soloist for 12/1.

Materials: Piano accompaniment or recorded accompaniment for a familiar song you have already learned in class, sound system, projector, screen, computer or internet device

PMEA Standards:

1a. Students sing independently, on pitch and in rhythm, with appropriate timbre, diction, and posture, and maintain a steady tempo.

4b.Students create and arrange short songs and instrumental pieces within specified guidelines.

6d. Students identify the sounds of a variety of instruments, including many orchestra and band instruments and instruments from various cultures, as well as children’s voices and male and female adult voices.

7a. Students devise criteria for evaluating performances and compositions.

Procedures:

Establish the concept of “many” vs. “one”

Sing through one of your class’s favorite songs all together, seated or standing as usual

Sing again pretending there’s a stage, arrange them as a chorus facing teacher

Pick a few soloists to stand in front of the chorus and give them turns singing individually vs the full group.

Create a group-generated “arrangement” that features choral & solo segments.

Listen for soloists on recordings

Play recordings (not videos) of any concertos of your choice, asking students to envision a stage with an orchestra + soloist. (Some suggestions: Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2, Artie Shaw Clarinet Concerto, Dvorak Cello Concerto, Joaquin Rodrigo Concierto de Aranjuez)

Identify the solo instrument and listen for interplay of soloist & orchestra

Pick one recording to view in video format, pointing out the positioning and interplay of orchestra and soloist

Soloists as Personalities

Ask students to generate a list of well-known singers or pop stars

Show photos of Isabelle Kim on WSSO website and play video of her greeting the class. Show a video of any violinists playing Wieniawski Violin Concerto in d and explain that Isabelle will be the soloist when you come to our concert.

Solicit opinions from the class about the various performers observed.