

EPSO | The Symphony

Sarah Ioannides, Music Director/Conductor

An Essential Exceptional Experience!

Dear 5th Grade Teachers:

We are excited to have you and your students experience the magic and splendor of the El Paso Symphony's "El Paso Electric Young People's Concerts". We hope this packet will help you prepare your students for an enjoyable and educational concert experience.

Included are program notes, information about the various orchestra instrument families and a "map", or orchestra seating plan, so the children will be able to easily identify each instrument section that they will see on the stage.

We wish to thank the *El Paso Electric Company* for their dedication to the children of the El Paso area. For the past eight years the *El Paso Electric Company* has felt a commitment to assure that the Young People's Concerts are present to all area 5th grade students, free of charge. *These performances would not be possible without their generous support.* We encourage your students to let them know the impact the concerts had on their lives. Thank you notes may be mailed to the El Paso Symphony, P.O. Box 180, El Paso, Texas 79942.

We look forward to you joining us in this wonderful musical journey!

Sincerely,



Maestra Sarah Ioannides
Music Director/Conductor

**El Paso Electric Young People's Concerts
February 17, 18 and 19, 2010
10:30am and 12:30pm
Abraham Chavez Theatre**

**El Paso Symphony Orchestra
Andres Moran, Assistant Conductor**

Star Spangled Banner

Bernstein – Selections from West Side Story (arr. Mason)

Anderson – Plink, Plank, Plunk!

Copland – Fanfare for the Common Man

Gould – American Salute

Dvorak – Symphony No. 9 “From the New World”, Scherzo

Dousa – Young Composers Competition Medley

Williams – Star Wars Medley

Sousa – Stars and Stripes Forever

The program this year will focus on American composers to tie into the fifth grade curriculum of American History. Many of the pieces have a patriotic theme and several of the composers have had a connection to the United States military.

Star-Spangled Banner

This poem was written by Francis Scott Key in 1814 after he witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British during the Battle of Baltimore in the war of 1812. The poem was set to a melody previously composed by John Stafford Smith in London. The *Star-Spangled Banner* was designated the national anthem by Congress and President Herbert Hoover in 1931. When the poem was written, the flag had fifteen stars & fifteen stripes.

West Side Story

Leonard Bernstein was born in Lawrence Massachusetts in 1918 and died in 1990. He was a pianist, conductor and composer. He studied piano as a child and music at Harvard University and The Curtis Institute of Music. In 1957, Bernstein became conductor of the New York Philharmonic. He achieved national acclaim for his long-running TV series The Young People's Concerts from 1958 to 1971. *West Side Story*, based on Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, was written in 1957. The story involves the rivalry between two street gangs in New York City. It was first performed on Broadway, and in 1961, it was produced as a movie. It is still a popular choice for high school musicals.

Rhythm is a big part of *West Side Story* just as it is in music from jazz to rock. The rhythms in this piece are influenced by the music of Latin America. Watch the percussion section on the left hand side and you will see these musicians create a lot of activity! Songs featured in this selection include *Tonight*, *Cool* and *America*.

Plink, Plank, Plunk

Leroy Anderson was born in Cambridge Mass in 1908 and died in 1975. His mother was his first piano teacher and he went on to study music theory and composition at Harvard University. He began composing in 1938. In 1942, he joined the U.S. Army where he served as a translator. Anderson spoke nine languages. In 1945, he was assigned to the Pentagon, while he continued to compose with great success earning him a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. *Plink, Plank, Plunk* is one of Anderson's most popular compositions.

This piece will use only the string sections in our orchestra. The violins, violas, cellos and basses will be played without the use of the bows. The strings will be playing "pizzicato" which means that the players will pluck the strings to produce the music.

Fanfare for the Common Man

Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1900 and died in 1990. His style of writing often invoked modern and American folk styles. He is known as the dean of American composers. His sister gave the young Copland his first piano lessons. At 11, he attempted his first opera which had only seven

bars of music. At 15, he decided to be a composer and began studying with a noted teacher. At 17, he went to Paris where he continued his studies. He returned to New York at 25 where he became a successful composer. One of his most famous pieces *Fanfare for the Common Man* was written in 1942. This theme has been used by numerous Rock Bands such as The Rolling Stones and Styx.

The Fanfare will feature the brass and percussion sections. Look for the trumpets, trombones and French horns to give us a real military feel in the music.

American Salute

Morton Gould was born in 1913 in Richmond Hill, New York. He was recognized as a young child as a prodigy, publishing his first composition at age 6. Gould was a student at The Institute of Musical Art. While a teenager, he played piano in New York movie theaters and was then the pianist for Radio City Music Hall. Gould composed for Broadway, films and TV as well as symphony orchestras. He conducted many major orchestras and recorded with most of them. His many awards included a Pulitzer Prize for his "Stringmusic", a Grammy Lifetime Achievement for his recordings and the Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime contribution to American culture. *American Salute* based on the tune "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" was written in 1942 and performed on his national Radio Show. This patriotic World War II composition was to become his most famous piece.

The woodwinds will be featured in the American Salute. Look for the flutes, clarinets and bassoons to play the melodies.

Scherzo from Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"

Antonin Dvorak was born in 1841 near Prague, part of the Austrian Empire, and died in 1904. His musical talents were evident from the age of 6. At 16, he began advanced music studies at Prague's only organ school and became an orchestral string player. At 30, Dvorak gave up playing to devote all his time to composing. From 1892 to 1895, Dvorak lived in New York City where he was director of a music school. During this time, he wrote his *Symphony No. 9* titled "From the New World" which used qualities found in Spirituals and Native American music. This symphony was voted the favorite symphony in a national poll in 2009. Neil Armstrong took a recording on the Apollo 11 mission in 1969, the first moon landing.

This Scherzo will treat us to many interesting and varied rhythms!

Star Wars Medley

John Williams was born in 1932 in Queens, New York. At 16, Williams moved to Los Angeles and after high school entered UCLA for music studies in piano and composition. In 1952, he was drafted into the US Air Force where he was a conductor and arranger for the Air Force Band. In 1955, he moved to New York and entered the Juilliard School of Music. During this time he was a jazz pianist in clubs, television and the recording industry. He returned to Los Angeles as an orchestrator in film studios. In 1971, his first Oscar was for *Fiddler on the Roof*. Williams has composed many of the most famous movie scores

including *Superman*, *Home Alone 3*, *Harry Potter* films, *ET*, *Indiana Jones* and *Jaws* as well as theme music for four Olympic Games. Perhaps his most popular score was written for *Star Wars*. He has won five Academy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, three Emmy Awards, twenty Grammy Awards and the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004. Williams continues a busy schedule of composing and conducting in Boston, New York and Los Angeles.

This Star Wars medley will feature the brass section. The trumpets, trombones and horns will play the Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker themes.

Stars and Stripes Forever

John Philip Sousa was born in Washington D.C. in 1854. He died in 1932. His musical studies began when he was 6. He played the violin. At 13, his father enlisted his son in the Marine Corps as an apprentice musician to keep him from joining a circus band. In 1880, he became the conductor of the U.S. Marine Band known as "The President's Own". He led this band under five presidents from Rutherford Hayes to Benjamin Harrison. Sousa left the Marine band in 1892 to organize the Sousa Band which toured the United States and Europe for forty years to the delight of all who heard them.

Sousa is known as the "King of Marches". In this piece we'll hear military and marching themes. It will be difficult not to tap our toes to the music!

Program Notes by Wilma Salzman

**Andres Moran, Assistant Conductor
El Paso Symphony Orchestra**



El Paso, Texas native Andres Moran was appointed associate instructor in the Instrumental Conducting department for Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in 2007. In this role, Moran collaborated with the IU Opera and Ballet Theater on their production of Perspectives 1900's, conducting fully staged versions of Debussy's *L'Après-midi d'un faune* and Chopin's *Les Sylphides*. This past Fall, Moran again collaborated with the IU Ballet Theater in the recreation of George Balanchine's original production of Hindemith's *The Four Temperaments*. In addition to serving as assistant conductor for numerous orchestral programs, Moran worked closely with Pulitzer Prize winning composer William Bolcom in the collegiate premiere of his opera *A Wedding* as well as a new production of Puccini's *La Bohème*.

As assistant conductor for the National Repertory Orchestra in 2008, Moran shared the podium with Maestro Carl Topilow on several occasions in both classical and pops concerts while also conducting full orchestral and educational programs throughout the season. In 2007, Moran served as staff conductor at the Brevard Music Festival where he led orchestral and chamber music performances while assisting Maestro David Efron. During the previous summer season, he was invited to the Music in the Mountains Festival in Durango, Colorado to lead a concert celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. In May of 2005, Los Angeles's Young Musicians Foundation selected Moran as a finalist in their national search for a music director for their Debut Orchestra.

A strong proponent of music education, Moran spent several years working closely with students in the public school music programs of the West Texas/New Mexico area. He was a founding member of a mentoring initiative which partnered college music majors with local middle and high school music students in under-privileged schools in the El Paso community.

Moran is currently pursuing conducting studies with David Efron and Arthur Fagen while at Indiana University. He received a graduate degree in Orchestral Conducting while studying with Paul Phillips at Southern Methodist University while simultaneously pursuing a degree in Horn Performance with Dallas Symphony principal hornist Gregor Hustis. Moran also holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from New Mexico University. Moran has participated in masterclasses with Leonard Slatkin, Herbert Blomstedt, Marin Alsop, and Michael Morgan.

The El Paso Symphony Orchestra would like to congratulate the winners of the 3rd Annual El Paso Electric Young People's Concerts "Composition Competition."

Lacey Paige LaFoe - 5th grade student at Scotsdale Elementary, Ysleta Independent School District, Teacher: Claudia Encarnacion.

Caylee Robalin 5th grade student at Polk Elementary, El Paso Independent School District, Teacher: Mary Mendez.

Aurora Salazar –5th grade student at John Drugan Elementary, Socorro Independent School District, Teacher: Cindy Hill.

Connor Stone – 5th grade student at Kohlberg Elementary School, El Paso Independent School District, Teacher: Julie Arras.

The four winning composition entries will be combined by Dominic Dousa into a fantastic orchestral medley that will be performed by the El Paso Symphony Orchestra led by Assistant Conductor Andres Moran at the El Paso Electric Young People's. In addition, the winners will be recognized from the stage on the day their class attends the concerts.

***Congratulations to our winners and a thank you
to all students who submitted a composition!***

BEING A GOOD AUDIENCE AT A FORMAL MUSICAL CONCERT

Never clap until the conductor puts her hands down at her side indicating that all movements of the piece have concluded.

When the conductor begins a piece, it is important to be quiet so the musicians can hear any last minute instructions.

Musicians need to tune just before they begin to play. You must be quiet so the conductor can check their tuning.



Listen for any solo played and try to spot the soloists.

Listen for the words when a choir performs.

Listen for the melody in a familiar piece. Clapping is acceptable.

No whistling, stomping your feet or any other noise is accepted.

Watch the conductor and see how she communicates to the musicians: what changes they want to make — Loud/Soft, Fast/Slow —which part is to come in at a particular place.

PERCUSSION FAMILY

The percussion family is the largest family in the orchestra. Instruments in the percussion family are played by being struck, scraped or shaken.



In the orchestra, the percussion section provides a variety of rhythms, textures and tones. The percussion section of the orchestra is important because it holds the essential rhythm of the entire orchestra.

SNARE DRUM

The snare drum is a two-headed drum, about eighteen inches across. It sits on a stand with one head facing up. The top head is struck with wooden drumsticks and is called the batter-

head. The snare drum gets its name from several wires (called snares) that go across the bottom head of the drum. The snares produce a sharp rattling sound as they vibrate against the bottom head.

BASS DRUM

The bass drum is constructed like a snare drum, but without snares. The large two-headed drum is hung on a stand and played on its side so that either head may be struck. The beater for a bass drum is large and covered with soft material at the playing end. It makes a deep, booming sound when struck.

CYMBALS

Cymbals are made from two large, slightly concave brass plates and are fitted with leather hand straps. Different sized cymbals produce a wide

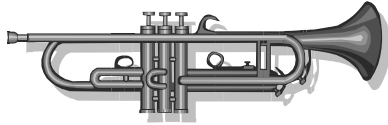
range of sound effects. Some are small enough that they are played with the fingers. There are also cymbals that are suspended on a string or strand and can be played by being struck with drumsticks or mallets.

TIMPANI

The timpani, also called kettledrums, were the first drums to be used in the orchestra over 300 years ago. They are constructed of a large copper bowl with a drumhead made of calfskin or plastic stretched across the top. When struck with felt-tipped wooden sticks or mallets, the timpani produces a specific pitch that is determined by the drum's size. The pitch is fine-tuned by tightening the drumhead with keys and foot pedals.

BRASS FAMILY

All brass instruments are made of brass and have a mouthpiece which is shaped like a tiny cup. Brass instruments are played by shaping your lips to fit into the mouthpiece.



TROMBONE

The name trombone means big trumpet. The mouthpiece is larger than that of a trumpet. The trombone has a big, rich, tenor voice. As with other brass instruments, the sound is produced by a vibrating column of air through the mouthpiece into the instrument's coiled tubing. Instead of using valves like the trumpet, the different notes are made by moving a slide.

TRUMPET

The trumpet has a sound that is bright and clear. It is the highest sounding member of the brass family. An optional mute can make the trumpet sound completely different. The player presses the three valves in various combinations with the fingers of the right hand to obtain various pitches.

FRENCH HORN

The French Horn bell points to the back when you play and the music sounds far away. The velvety tone of the French Horn blends well

in both bands and orchestras. It is also said to be the most difficult instrument to play. Instead of a cup-shaped mouthpiece, the horn has a funnel-shaped mouthpiece that has a direct effect on both the production and quality of the sound.

TUBA

The tuba is one of two of the largest band instruments. It has the lowest voice in the brass section. The player usually sits down to play it, holding the tuba upright in their lap. The tuba makes deep, beautiful booming sounds.

WOODWIND FAMILY

Except for the Flutes, woodwind instruments have a thin piece of wood, called a reed, in the mouthpiece. When you blow into the instrument, the reed vibrates. The length of woodwind instrument's tube is related to the pitch produced. All modern woodwind instruments have keys. These keys either cover finger holes or press something else that covers or uncovers a hole.

FLUTE

Flutes were originally made of wood but are now made out of silver or gold. Flutes do not have a reed—they are played by blowing over a hole near the end of the tube. Keys cover the tone holes and you press down on the

keys to produce the different music notes. It is the most popular member of its family.

CLARINET

All clarinets function the same way and none of them are hard to play. Clarinets have a single-reed mouthpiece and have keys that open and close over holes in the tube allowing the ability to play different notes very quickly.

OBOE

The oboe is similar to the clarinet. They are both made from wood and have metal keys enabling notes to be produced rapidly. It has two reeds instead of one. It has a slender



tube instead of a mouthpiece. Oboes have very high voices that soar over and through the sounds of other

instruments.

BASSOON

The bassoon is also a double-reed instrument with a lower sound. Bassoons are usually made out of maple and the tube is folded in the middle. The air blown inside travels over nine feet to the bottom, then up to the top of the instrument.

STRING FAMILY

Each of the stringed instruments has four strings, stretched over a wood body. Strings may be plucked with the fingers of one hand or a bow may be drawn across them to produce sound. Using a bow makes it possible to produce, long sustained sounds more than by simply plucking the strings with the fingers.

VIOLIN

The violin is the smallest of the stringed instruments. You tuck the wide bottom under the chin and rest it on the shoulder. Violins are made of more than 70 separate pieces of wood glued together. They have high sweet voices and are among the



most important instruments in an orchestra.

VIOLA

Because the viola is slightly larger than the violin, it has a lower voice but it is played the same way as a violin. The viola is the alto voice of the string family and has a darker, warmer tone quality than the violin.

CELLO

The cello is shaped like a violin except it is much larger. You sit down to play the cello and hold the instrument between your knees with the neck resting against your shoulder. An end pin on the cello reaches to the floor. Since it is much larger than both the violin and viola, it has a lower voice and

adds richness, depth to the sound of an orchestra.

DOUBLE BASS

The double bass is the largest instrument in the string family. It's a giant violin with a very deep, mellow voice...even lower than the cello. You can sit down or stand up to play the Double Bass and support the instrument with your body. There's a pin at the bottom that rests on the floor. The Double Bass usually plays harmony in an orchestra.

Instrumental Families

To be used with the orchestra seating chart

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

What do they have in common?

- * They are all made of wood and have the same basic shape.
- * They have two parts — the instrument and The bow. Sound is made by either drawing the bow across the strings (called arco) or by plucking the strings with the finger (called pizzicato).

How are they different?

- * They are different sizes, and their sizes affect the pitches (the smaller the instrument, the higher the pitch; the bigger the instrument, the lower the pitch).
- * Violin and viola are held under the chin while being played and the cello and double bass stand on the floor.

Woodwinds: Piccolo, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, English horn, Bassoon

What do they have in common?

- * They all have a similar tube shape.
- * Sound is made by blowing air through the instrument.
- * Most are made of wood. (The flute is a woodwind because it used to be made of wood. It is now made of precious metals like silver, gold and platinum).
- * They sit behind the string section because they are louder (but not as loud as the brass instruments).

How are they different?

- * The piccolo and flute do not have reeds.
- * The clarinet and bass clarinet are single reed instruments.
- * The oboe, English horn and bassoon are double reed instruments.
- * They are different lengths (the shorter the tube, the higher the pitch, the longer the tube, the lower the pitch).

Brass: Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba

What do they have in common?

- * They are all made of metal.
- * They are all just tubes with a mouthpiece attached and a flared bell at the end.
- * Sound is made by buzzing the lips into the mouthpiece.
- * They sit behind the woodwinds because they are very loud.

How are they different?

- * The tubes are different lengths, and their Lengths affect the pitches (the shorter the tube, the higher the pitch, the longer the tube, the lower the pitch).
- * They are different shapes.
- * The trombone changes pitch with a slide, the trumpet, horn and tuba change pitch with valves.

Percussion: Various Drums, Cymbals, Tambourine (this family also includes Piano and harp)

What do they have in common?

- * They all make sound by being shaken or struck by a stick, hammer, mallet or hand.
- * They are located in the back of the orchestra (or to the side) because they are loud.

How are they different?

- * They are made of different materials, including wood, metal and plastic.
- * They are different shapes.
- * They make different sounds.
- * Some have a definite pitch and some do not.