

All-State: Non-Performance Lesson Plans for Comprehensive Musicianship

presented by Richard Meyer — reported by Faith Farr

Listening Journal

Done weekly for 10-15 minutes. In a journal, students record date, selection title, performer(s), composer, instruments used, etc. Students include their impressions of the selection (give it a grade). Provide pocket scores, individual parts, or lyric sheets to supplement the listening activity.

Tone Painting

To introduce this lesson, Meyer uses the last two minutes from *Till Eulenspiegel*—Till's capture, trial and death. He plays the example, then asks the students what they pictured in their heads. He then explains what Strauss intended, and plays the example again.

For the Tone Painting lesson, make a list of various items on your board: e.g. War, Birds, Donkey, Elephants, Storm, Traffic, Frogs, Blacksmith, Fireworks, Sheep,

River, Tortoise. The student's paper has two columns: My Choice and Reasons for My Choice. Have recordings available that the composer's titles show illustrated your items. E.g: *Mars* from *The Planets* by Holst, *Birds*, *The Elephant* and *Tortoises* from *Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saens etc.

After each selection is played, students choose the item they think is being represented and justify their choice with musical reasons such as instrumentation, dynamics, tempo, etc.

Compare and Contrast

Play two or three versions of the same piece. Students list differences they hear in each version, concluding with their personal preference and why. Possible examples: *Badinerie* by J.S. Bach: original, *Switched-On Bach* (synthesizer) and *Free Flight* (jazz). *Blackbird* by Lennon & McCartney: origi-

nal, Bernadette Peters, and Bobby McFerrin.

Term-Search

Student's paper has two columns: Term and Definition. Students search through a piece of music they are currently working on, making a list of all the symbols and terms that they can find.

Music Bingo

Students fill in blank 5x5 grids (a normal Bingo card, but with MUSIC at the top) with terms they found in Term Search. Then one student starts by naming a term they have, "Under the M, treble clef." A student who also has M treble clef calls a term that they have. At the end, the winner shouts "Music!!!"

Richard. Meyer is a nationally-recognized, best-selling composer. ‡