

# HS Band Enrichment

## April Lee

Hello, again! I hope things are going as smoothly as possible for you and yours during these stay-at-home weeks. Reconnecting with our families is so precious.

To complete Option #1 below, students will have to have done Parts 1 & 2 of Music in Our Lives which include an interview and reflection. You may complete this unit in the form of a google doc and share it with me for your grade. For Option #2, please send me an email to set up a time. Option #3 is recommended for Juniors and Seniors. It is self explanatory. If you have any questions, my email is below.

Work is due April 27th.

In addition to these options, students should have been practicing their instruments. Please do not neglect to do so in the case that we return and present a concert as previously scheduled on May 11th.

My "office hours" are from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, but you can email me anytime with questions or concerns at [april.lee@oakland5.org](mailto:april.lee@oakland5.org).

<b>Class</b>	<b>Choice 1</b>	<b>Choice 2</b>	<b>Choice 3 (Enrichment)</b>
HS Band	Music in Our Lives Part 3 - Respond	Play your instrument for Mrs. Lee in a Google Meet	Design Your Own Band Concert

**MUSIC IN OUR LIVES - RESPOND (skip down to Part 3)**

This is a three-week project, so if you choose this option, plan to complete it in the following weeks. You will interview a grandparent or special friend over the age of 60. After the interview, you will reflect on their responses, listen to some of their music, and then send in your response in the form of a video journal that is one minute or less or a written response that is two pages long (Times New Roman 12 point font double-spaced)..

**PART 1 : INTERVIEW**

Use video conferencing if possible- FaceTime, Facebook Video, Skype, Zoom, Google Meet. Otherwise, a phone call would be fine, just wash your hands. Please note that sometimes memories bubble up unpredictably, so be patient and allow them to bounce back to a previously asked question if necessary. Also, presenting a prompt can help get them thinking, so do some research before your interview (or at least just give it some thought). What decade are we talking about? If they are 60+ now, when were they born? What year did they graduate high school? What songs were popular while they were in high school? Did they grow up in a rural area like you or are they from a bigger city? Knowing these things will help your interview.

Submit the following either via email ([april.lee@oakland5.org](mailto:april.lee@oakland5.org)) or hard-copy by Mon., Apr. 13th:  
Your Name:

Name of Person Interviewed:

How is this person related to you and how old are they?

Feel free to begin the interview with small talk before getting to work.

Remember to take your time with questions and answers. These questions are just a guide, feel free to come up with your own. You can also interview more than one person.

1. Let's start with your earliest memories of music. Did your parents sing to you when you were young? Did you have a special bedtime lullaby or wake up song?
2. What songs do you remember from kindergarten or as a young child at church?
3. Did you play singing games with friends in your neighborhood? What kind?
4. Right now, I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Who was your favorite singer or band when you were my age?
5. What did your parents think of your music?
6. What song would get you up on the dance floor?
7. What kinds of music did your parents listen to?
8. What kinds of music did your grandparents listen to?
9. How did you listen to music at home? What did you use?
10. What songs would you hear at church?
11. What song reminds you of summer?
12. Do you remember your first concert?
13. What was your favorite concert or live performance?
14. Were you in your school choir or band?
15. Did you play any instruments?

16. Did you and your friends have a favorite song to belt out together?
17. What is a song that you fell in love to?
18. Did you have a wedding song, a song for your first dance?
19. If you have children, did you sing to them as babies? What did you sing?
20. If you could share ONE song with me, what would it be?
21. Thank you so much for sharing these memories with me, is there anything you would like to add about how important music has been in your life?

**PART 2: LISTEN AND REFLECT**

Present the following via email ([april.lee@oakland5.org](mailto:april.lee@oakland5.org)) or hard-copy by Mon. Apr. 20th.

Your Name

A brief description of the time period in which the person you interviewed grew up.  
The names and artists of 1-2 songs you listened to that were mentioned in the interview. Tell about what else was going on in the world when that person was a teenager.  
Write about how their music compares/contrasts to your favorite music to listen to.

**PART 3: RESPOND to what you have learned and heard.**

Please present the following in an email ([april.lee@oakland5.org](mailto:april.lee@oakland5.org)) or hard-copy by Mon. Apr. 27.

What did you learn about your grandparent (or special friend) that surprised you? Inspired you?  
What song did you most connect with and why? Video a short response (1 minute or less) and email it to me. These will be compiled into one video project and shared with the rest of the class.

## Design your own band concert

(NOTE: This is taken from another Band director in a different school. Use your imagination and have fun! - Mrs. Lee)

When I plan out each of our band concerts during the year a great deal of extended thought goes into the design, it goes beyond just choosing some fun songs to play and handing them out. I would like each of you to replicate this process, and as a project, design your own concert that we could potentially perform. Look over the information and thoughts below and then begin searching for music that you feel would make a good concert.

*Thoughts to consider when choosing your music:*

### 1). When is the concert?

In HS we have 4 major concerts a year: Halloween, Christmas, March, and May. The music chosen for each concert reflects the time and nature of the concert.

**Halloween** - our bands are just forming and much of the first month of school is learning fundamentals, learning to play as a new band for the year, discovering our strengths and weaknesses, adjusting to our sections, etc. The music for the Halloween concert reflects a shorter timeline to prepare once we get beyond the fundamentals. Plus, finding appropriate music that reflects a Halloween theme is a *major* challenge: not too easy, not too hard, not interesting, does it fit the theme, has it been played recently,... Not all music has to have a direct Halloween theme, it's not all scary, other themes such as movies and super heroes, thrilling adventures, etc... work as well.

**Christmas** - We have our shortest window to prepare so I must challenge you as musicians, but also not over-reach your challenge within this shorter time-frame. There are a lot of great Christmas/Winter themed pieces available. Watch for pieces that are once again not too easy, not too hard, appropriate for our audience, fit our theme, interesting to learn and perform, etc....

**March** - this is the concert where I typically program our most challenging music. This is when I like to reach as far as possible and pull out all the stops. This is where I like to find that one commanding piece that really requires us to pull together to pull it off. I don't usually work around a theme but you certainly could create a theme such as: all American music, music from outer space, geographic place songs such as mountains or rivers or oceans, music from around the world, etc.... It's okay to program great music that is not necessarily themed with each other.

**May** - this is the concert that tends to have more pop music and entertaining music. Not all songs have to be recognizable pop music, really good thrilling music fits very well like "Convergence" and "Ruckus." Movie tunes, show tunes, TV themes, are always fun if appropriate. Once again, make sure it's not too easy to be boring, not too hard to be out of reach, dumb/stupid arrangements which many pop arrangements tend to be - especially songs by pop artists that don't translate into band well, will it keep the audience on the edge of their seats.?

**Jazz Night in March** - if you're interested you could also design a jazz band concert that we perform in mid-march following the same thoughts from above.

**2). Decide on the appropriate ability level of the music.**

This is the hardest decision of all. I think about how far can I push you guys, how far can I make you reach, and yet still succeed. I carefully look at every section in the score for specific skills which will be more difficult for you to interpret when you don't understand the intricacies of every instrument (range of notes, amount of runs, complex passages, etc...). I carefully look at the percussion parts to make certain it's a good fit for our group and everyone can feel like they've contributed - many songs have very limited percussion parts. I look at the layering and interaction of different parts for rhythmic complexity and musical interaction. For this assignment just look more at your own instrument for difficulty level and see if it's a good fit for you and your section and perhaps it will also be a good fit for everyone else.

On JWPepper they list pieces by difficulty level: very easy (VE) -easy (E) -medium easy (ME) -medium (M) -medium advanced (MA) -advanced (A). However, these labels are very, very inconsistent. Just because it says it's medium easy doesn't mean it's still not too easy, or maybe even too difficult. Start by searching within the appropriate difficulty level and then look at each piece carefully within that category. Concert Band is usually ME or M; Wind Symphony is usually M or MA, but there is a lot of great ME music for Wind Symphony that's harder than the label suggests - especially pop music.

**3). Look at how all the pieces on your program fit together with each other.**

What will be your opener, what will be your closer, do you have some contrast like a slow, beautiful piece, how do the pieces flow together, what will be your concert order?

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**YOUR ASSIGNMENT:**

**Part 1:**

**Your assignment is to create a concert of 5 - 6 songs that we could potentially perform.** Choose ONE of our 4 concerts from the above list and design it yourself. I will be very interested in what you come up with, and will be looking carefully at your suggestions for next year.

**You must:**

- 1). Go to [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com) to search for your music.
  - a. On the top left menu bar choose BAND and drop down to CONCERT to get on the correct list.
  - b. There are many sub-lists in the left margin to search through. Go through each menu to see what you might be looking for.
  - c. Once you choose a sub-category ("concert openers" for example) choose a Grade and Difficulty from the left hand margin to limit your search. You may choose multiple grades and difficulties for a broader search. You may also search by song title or composer in the top left search bar if you know of a great composer we've played in the past you want to look at more in depth.

- d. Much of the music you'll find has recordings, but not all of it. Once you click on a specific title, each piece you preview will have a choice to Listen (which is an audio recording link), View (which will show you the score or a sample of it while you listen), and Watch (which is a self-playing video of the complete score you can follow along with). Not all music has a musical score to look at to see your part, sometimes you just have to listen for your part in the audio.
- 2). Choose your 5- 6 songs for your program and copy the link to each of them.
- 3). Place your link, along with Title and Composer, into a google-document and after each song write a short but complete paragraph on why you chose that piece?, how does it fit into your concert?, what influenced you to choose that one and program it into a certain order on the concert?, what attracted you to that song?, how do you feel others in the band will like to play that song?, etc.....
- 4). Submit that document to me for grading and consideration on schoology.

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**Part 2:**

**You will design a google slideshow to be shown on a big screen during the concert. See example linked here: [slideshow sample link](#)**

Your slideshow will have a:

- 1). Welcome slide to be displayed as the audience walks in, .....please silence all cell phones, do not enter or exit while the students are playing, etc.....
- 2). Each of your song slides should have an appropriate image that represents the spirit of the chosen song along with the title and composer overlaid.
- 3). A Thank you/goodbye slide to be displayed as they exit the concert.

This assignment is a project designed to take up to two weeks to complete during your Distance Learning time. I hope that this is a fun, enjoyable way to think about our band while you are out on leave, but does not pile on undue stress during this challenging time. Please make certain it is submitted on time, but most importantly - BE WELL! I'm gonna really miss playing with you guys everyday!