

Around the World - 5:30 Recital Notes

Robert Hawkworth – Happy Hoedown U.S.A.

We kick off this evening's Around the World recital in the United States, with Robert Hawkworth performing *Happy Hoedown U.S.A.* by Lancaster. This lively piece captures the spirit of a traditional American barn dance, full of toe-tapping energy and joyful rhythm.

Trista Rocha – Old German Dance

Our next stop is Germany, where Trista Rocha will perform *Old German Dance* by Praetorius. This piece reflects the elegance of Renaissance court dances, where music brought people together in graceful celebration.

Gemma Muñoz – Around We Go

Our journey continues with Gemma Muñoz performing *Around We Go* by Dennis Alexander. With its swirling melodies and lively rhythm, this piece captures the playful spirit of traveling from country to country around the world.

Daniela Jaeger – Alouette, arranged by Bastien

Next, Daniela Jaeger brings us to Quebec, the heart of French-speaking Canada, with Alouette—a traditional children's song arranged by Bastien. Light and playful, this familiar tune has been sung for generations with a touch of fun and mischief.

Esther Kom – My Sombrero

Now we head south to Mexico, where Esther Kom will perform *My Sombrero*. This cheerful piece celebrates the festive spirit of Mexican culture, inspired by the traditional wide-brimmed hat often worn during celebrations and dances.

Levy Peña – Hiawatha

Levy Peña will now perform *Hiawatha*, a piece inspired by the legendary Native American leader known for uniting the Iroquois nations. Its strong, steady rhythm and bold melody reflect his strength and vision.

Evelyn Rodriguez – Japanese Moon

We now travel to Japan with Evelyn Rodriguez performing *Japanese Moon* by Olson. This gentle piece captures the calm beauty of a moonlit night, reflecting the grace and stillness often found in traditional Japanese music.

Josiah Newman – Loch Ness Monster

Now we head to Scotland, where Josiah Newman will perform *Loch Ness Monster* by Faber. Inspired by the misty Scottish Highlands, this mysterious piece brings to life the legend of Nessie, the elusive creature said to dwell in the deep, dark waters of Loch Ness.

Israel Kom – Hot Salsa

We now head to Latin America, where Israel Kom will perform *Hot Salsa* by Carolyn Bober. This upbeat piece is full of fiery rhythms and spicy flair, capturing the vibrant energy of salsa music and dance.

Nancy Wang – Wild Rider by Robert Schumann

Next, we travel to the shadowy forests of Germany, where tall pine trees stretch into stormy skies and a lone rider races through the mist. Representing this dramatic scene is Nancy Wang with Wild Rider by Robert Schumann, one of many vivid pieces from his Album for the Young, written to inspire and challenge young pianists.

Abigail Alvarez – Egyptian Pyramids, published by Alfred Music

Next, we travel to the sands of Egypt, where ancient pyramids rise against the desert sky. Abigail Alvarez brings us Egyptian Pyramids, published by Alfred Music—a piece that captures the mystery and majesty of this ancient world.

Nia Rivas – Magic Maracas by Melody Bober

Next, we visit a glowing festival tent in Oaxaca, Mexico—surrounded by candles, colorful papel picado, and ornaments that shimmer with mystery. Nia Rivas brings that spirit to life with Magic Maracas by Melody Bober—a playful piece full of rhythm and charm.

Oscar Miramontes – Argentine Tango, published by Alfred Music

Next, Oscar Miramontes takes us to Buenos Aires, Argentina, the birthplace of the tango. With bold rhythms and sweeping melodies, he performs Argentine Tango, published by Alfred Music, capturing the passion and elegance of this iconic dance.

Kara Muñoz – Giotto's Campanile by Dennis Alexander

Next, Kara Muñoz brings us to Florence, Italy, where Giotto's Campanile stands beside the Florence Cathedral, also known as the Duomo. Construction on this striking bell tower began in 1334 and took over twenty years to complete. Its colorful marble and graceful design continue to inspire, just as they do in Giotto's Campanile by Dennis Alexander.

Edward Dunn – Indian Pony Riders by Bastien

Next, Edward Dunn takes us to the open plains of North America, where Native American riders move swiftly across the land on their ponies. He performs Indian Pony Riders by Bastien, a piece that captures the spirit, rhythm, and freedom of the ride.

Hamshika Jayapriyan – Forest Song by Faber

Next, Hamshika Jayapriyan takes us deep into the forest, where every leaf rustles with mystery and music. She performs Forest Song by Faber, a piece that paints a peaceful picture of nature through sound.

Olivia Donehoo – Chinese Dragon by Faber

Next, Olivia Donehoo takes us to China, where the legendary dragon is a symbol of power, protection, and good fortune. Unlike the fire-breathing dragons of the West, Chinese dragons are graceful, water-dwelling creatures—each one shown in a traditional color and tied to luck and prosperity. Olivia brings this spirit to life with Chinese Dragon by Faber.

Rowan Luna – Malagueña, arranged by Faber

Next, Rowan Luna takes us to the southern coast of Spain and the city of Málaga, the birthplace of the traditional Malagueña. Arranged by Faber, this piece reflects the fiery spirit of Andalusian music, with bold rhythms and sweeping melodies that capture the essence of Spanish dance and tradition.

Abigail Donehoo – In the Alps by Thompson

Next, Abigail Donehoo takes us high into the Alps—a majestic mountain range that spans eight countries: France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Liechtenstein, and Monaco. She performs In the Alps by Thompson, a piece that captures the grandeur and peaceful beauty of this breathtaking landscape.

Adian Langtang – Tarantella Veloce by Dennis Alexander

Next, Adian Langtang takes us to southern Italy with Tarantella Veloce by Dennis Alexander. This fast-paced dance has roots in Italian folk tradition, known for its whirling rhythms and energetic spirit—perfectly captured in this dazzling performance.

Amelia Pallares – Toreador Song by Georges Bizet

Next, Amelia Pallares brings us to a Spanish bullring through the lens of French composer Georges Bizet. She performs the Toreador Song from the opera Carmen—a bold and spirited piece set in Spain but originally sung in French. It captures the drama, flair, and passion of the arena with unforgettable energy.

Carolyne Peña – Folk Dance by Gillock

Next, Carolyne Peña brings us a lively and spirited performance with Folk Dance by Gillock. Inspired by traditional music from around the world, this cheerful piece captures the joy and rhythm of communal dancing.

Yash Anand – Spanish Gypsies by Gillock

Next, Yash Anand takes us to Spain, where the vibrant traditions of the Romani people have inspired music full of fire and flair. He performs Spanish Gypsies by Gillock, a piece that captures the passion, rhythm, and mystery of this spirited culture.

Naveen Jayapriyan – Cherry Blossoms in Osaka by Mier

Next, Naveen Jayapriyan takes us to Osaka, Japan, during the gentle bloom of cherry blossom season. He performs Cherry Blossoms in Osaka by Mier, a graceful and reflective piece that captures the beauty and tranquility of this beloved springtime tradition.

Isabel Orozco – Flowers in a Temple Garden by Burnham

Next, Isabel Orozco takes us to a peaceful temple garden in East Asia, where a quiet walkway is lined with delicate flowers and lush greenery. She performs Flowers in a Temple Garden by Burnham—a graceful piece that invites calm, beauty, and quiet reflection.

Katelyn Rodriguez – Flamenco by Catherine Rollin

For our final destination, Katelyn Rodriguez takes us indoors to a lively Spanish gathering, where the rhythms of flamenco fill the room. Dancers move with passion, a guitarist strums with precision, and palms clap in time with the beat. She performs Flamenco by Catherine Rollin—a piece full of bold spirit, fiery movement, and traditional flair.

Thank you for joining us for this evening's 5:30 recital. Through each performance, we've traveled across cultures, countries, and centuries—all through the language of music. We're proud of every student's hard work and growth, and we hope you leave feeling inspired by the creativity and dedication they've shared with us tonight.

Before we go, we'd like to thank the teachers whose students performed today. If you're here, please stand. Betty Bassuk, Marian Lumpkin, Lauren Martinez, Diane Morrow, Faith Wu-Yapp. Thank you.

We'd also like to give special thanks to Western Hills United Methodist Church for the generous use of their beautiful sanctuary—it's an honor to share music in such a welcoming and inspiring space.