

Around the World - 6:30 Recital Notes

Kay Parsa – Chickasaw Midnight Ride by Garcia

We begin our journey in the American South, where the Chickasaw people once rode beneath moonlit skies. Now based in Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation carries a rich cultural legacy that inspires Chickasaw Midnight Ride by Garcia. K-Parsa brings this bold and rhythmic piece to life, capturing the mystery and strength of a ride through native lands.

James Parsa – The Gold Doubloons by Mier

Next, James Parsa takes us to the port of Cádiz, Spain, where a treasure chest overflows with gold doubloons on the sand. He performs The Gold Doubloons by Mier—a bold, adventurous piece full of sparkle and mystery.

Piper and Violet Showery – Hava Nagila, Traditional Hebrew Folk Song

Next, we visit the land that would become modern-day Israel, where Hava Nagila was born. The melody comes from a Hasidic tune of Eastern European origin, and the lyrics were added in the early twentieth century in what was then Palestine. Piper and Violet Showery perform this joyful folk song together—a celebration of life, tradition, and unity.

Noah Yates – London Bridge, Traditional Folk Song

Next, Noah Yates takes us to London with London Bridge, a traditional folk song named after the city's famous crossing. Though the image shows Tower Bridge, the song refers to the original London Bridge—rebuilt many times and even relocated to Arizona in the 20th century.

Natalia Vazquez – Yankee Doodle, Traditional American Folk Song

Next, Natalia Vazquez takes us to the early days of America with Yankee Doodle, a tune once used to mock colonial soldiers but later embraced as a symbol of American spirit and independence.

Liliana Yates – Chant Arabe by Chwatal

Next, Liliana Yates takes us to the Middle East with Chant Arabe by Chwatal. This expressive piece reflects the flowing melodies and rich ornamentation often found in traditional Arabic music, evoking a sense of both mystery and beauty.

Sebastian Guardado & Olivia Vazquez – Scottish Air, Traditional Folk Tune

Next, Sebastian Guardado and Olivia Vazquez take us to the misty highlands of Scotland with Scottish Air, a traditional folk tune. Their duet captures the haunting beauty and quiet strength of Scottish melodies passed down through generations.

Christian Volveras – New Orleans Dixieland Jam by Bill Boyd

Christian Volveras takes us to New Orleans, Louisiana—a city alive with jazz and southern charm. He performs New Orleans Dixieland Jam by Bill Boyd, a lively piece full of bounce, rhythm, and that unmistakable Dixieland flair.

Ian Perez-Raudry – Mexican Sun Fiesta by Bastien

Next, Ian Perez-Raudry takes us to Mexico, where sunshine, color, and celebration fill the air. He performs Mexican Sun Fiesta by Bastien, a cheerful piece that captures the joy and energy of a sunny festival day.

Emilio Vazquez – Wild Horses of Montana by Bastien

Emilio Vazquez brings us to the open plains of Montana, where wild horses run free. He performs Wild Horses of Montana by Bastien—a bold, sweeping piece that reflects the strength and spirit of the untamed West.

Alexis Vazquez – Guatemalan Clapping Song, Traditional

Next, Alexis Vazquez takes us to Guatemala with a traditional clapping song full of rhythm and fun. This piece celebrates the joy of music shared in community—where rhythm, movement, and culture all come together.

Charlie Johnson – Scottish Bagpipes by Bastien

Charlie Johnson takes us back to Scotland with Scottish Bagpipes by Bastien. Bold and resonant, this piece echoes the sound of the traditional instrument, capturing the proud and stirring voice of the Highlands.

Luke Yates – Minuet from Mt. Vernon by Reinagle

Next, Luke Yates brings us to early America with Minuet from Mt. Vernon by Reinagle. This elegant dance, named after George Washington's estate, reflects the refined musical style of the colonial period.

Joseph Li – Mexican Clap Hands by Bastien

Joseph Li takes us to Mexico with Mexican Clap Hands by Bastien—a bright, rhythmic piece that celebrates playful movement and the festive traditions of Mexican culture.

James Li – Black Forest Polka by Alfred

Next, James Li takes us to the Black Forest of Germany with Black Forest Polka by Alfred. With a lively beat and joyful energy, this piece brings to life the charm of a traditional German dance.

John Andrews – Spanish Caballero by Faber

John Andrews takes us to Spain with Spanish Caballero by Faber. This bold and elegant piece reflects the proud spirit of a Spanish gentleman, full of flair, strength, and classic style.

Nathaniel Aranzabal – Swiss Clock Sonatina, III. by Noona

Next, Nathaniel Aranzabal brings us to Switzerland with the third movement of Swiss Clock Sonatina by Noona. With crisp rhythm and playful precision, this piece captures the charm and tick-tock rhythm of a classic Swiss clock.

Lucia Vazquez – Russian Folk Song, Traditional

Lucia Vazquez takes us to Russia with a traditional folk song known for its expressive melodies and heartfelt tone. This piece reflects the rich musical heritage and deep soul of Russian tradition.

Maddie Garmon – Minuet in Baroque Style by Kluck

Next, Maddie Garmon takes us to 18th-century Europe with Minuet in Baroque Style by Kluck. Graceful and structured, this piece reflects the elegance and ornamentation of the Baroque era.

Norah Garmon – French Children’s Song, Traditional

Norah Garmon brings us to France with French Children’s Song, a light and charming melody passed down for generations. It captures the innocence and joy of childhood through simple, lovely phrases.

Ana Yates – The Happy Farmer by Schumann

Ana Yates takes us to the German countryside with The Happy Farmer by Robert Schumann. Cheerful and steady, this piece reflects the simple joys of farm life and the warmth of hard work and contentment.

Catherine Kim – Spanish Serenade by Bastien

Next, Catherine Kim returns us to Spain with Spanish Serenade by Bastien. This graceful piece flows with gentle rhythms and romantic flair, capturing the spirit of a warm evening under the stars.

Melanie Ramos – Seville by Gillock

Melanie Ramos takes us to Seville, a city in southern Spain known for flamenco, festivals, and vibrant culture. She performs Seville by Gillock, a lively piece full of rhythm, color, and Spanish charm.

Lauren Vaughn – Mexican Fiesta by Olson

Next, Lauren Vaughn brings us to Mexico with Mexican Fiesta by Olson. This festive piece bursts with rhythm and energy, celebrating the music, dance, and spirit of a joyful Mexican celebration.

A.J. Nwiloh – Carnival in Rio by Faber

A.J. Nwiloh takes us to Brazil with Carnival in Rio by Faber. This exciting piece captures the energy and celebration of Rio’s famous carnival—bursting with rhythm, movement, and color.

Chris Johnson – Cuban Mambo by Schaum

Next, Chris Johnson takes us to Cuba with Cuban Mambo by Schaum. Full of syncopation and spice, this piece reflects the vibrant dance rhythms that define the lively mambo tradition.

Theresa Acosta – Amor Eterno by Juan Gabriel

We close with Theresa Acosta performing Amor Eterno by Juan Gabriel, a beloved ballad from Mexico. Deeply emotional and heartfelt, this piece speaks of eternal love and lasting connection across time and distance.

Thank you for joining us for this evening’s 6:30 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. Karol Garmon, Ann Hallmark, Lauren Martinez, Diane Morrow, Diane Sarrels. 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.