

Around the World - 5:30 Recital Notes

Robert Hawksworth – Happy Hoedown U.S.A.

We kick off this evening's Around the World recital in the United States, with Robert Hawksworth 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 of American Folk Dance by Gillock. Drawing from the rich tradition of American folk music, this upbeat piece celebrates the energy and joy of community dance.

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.

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.

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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.

Around the World - 7:30 Recital Notes

Sarah Cao – London Bridge, arranged by Burnam

We begin in London, where one of the world's most iconic bridges has stood in various forms for over a thousand years. One version of the bridge, built in the nineteenth century, was even relocated to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Sarah Cao opens our recital with London Bridge, arranged by Burnam—a cheerful interpretation of the traditional tune, capturing the playful spirit of a song passed down through generations.

Evelyn Ray – Polynesian Afternoon by Colley

Evelyn Ray takes us to the South Pacific with Polynesian Afternoon by Colley. This gentle piece evokes the warmth of a tropical breeze, the rhythm of the waves, and the relaxed feeling of a quiet island afternoon.

Caleb Ray – España by Mier

Caleb Ray transports us to Spain with España by Martha Mier. This vibrant piece captures the energy of Spanish music with lively rhythms and bold harmonies, offering a glimpse into the rich cultural traditions of Iberian dance and song.

Shreshta Badugu – Sakura, Traditional Japanese

Shreshta Badugu performs Sakura, a traditional Japanese melody that means “cherry blossoms.” This haunting and beautiful piece reflects the fleeting beauty of the cherry blossom season, a symbol of renewal and the passage of time in Japanese culture.

Gemma Fisk – Unicorn Land by Rollin

Gemma Fisk takes us into a world of fantasy with Unicornland by Catherine Rollin. With its shimmering harmonies and magical melodies, this piece invites us to imagine a dreamy landscape where unicorns roam freely through enchanted forests.

Jonah Fisk – Japanese Game Song by Mitsuda

Jonah Fisk brings us into the world of video game music with a piece by Japanese composer Yasunori Mitsuda. Known for his work on classic games like Chrono Trigger and Xenogears, Mitsuda blends emotion and atmosphere in music that's as moving as it is memorable.

Henry Dunn – Swan Lake

Our journey now takes us to Russia, as Henry Dunn performs an arrangement of *Swan Lake*, originally composed by Tchaikovsky and arranged by Abby Knudson. This graceful piece captures the elegance and emotion of one of the world's most famous ballets.

James Dunn – The Irish Rover

Our next stop is Ireland, where James Dunn will perform *The Irish Rover*, arranged by Kevrin. This lively tune tells the tale of a legendary ship and reflects the spirited storytelling and musical energy of Irish folk traditions.

Henry Dunn – Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky, arranged by Knudsen

Henry Dunn performs Swan Lake, one of Tchaikovsky's most beloved ballet themes, arranged by Knudsen. This elegant melody tells the story of transformation and love, capturing the grace of swans gliding across a moonlit lake.

James Dunn – The Irish Rover arranged by Keveren

James Dunn brings us a taste of Irish folklore with The Irish Rover by Kevarin. This lively tune tells the tale of a magnificent ship and its wildly exaggerated adventures—from a massive crew to a cargo of dogs, pigs, and clocks. It's a fun and spirited nod to Ireland's rich tradition of musical storytelling.

Edward Dunn – Indian Pony Riders by Bastien

Edward Dunn takes us on a ride across wide open plains with Indian Pony Riders by Bastien. This piece uses a steady rhythm and galloping motion to capture the spirit of young riders on horseback, echoing the freedom and movement of life in the American West.

Sophia Cao – Austrian Impromptu by Schubert

Sophia Cao performs Austrian Impromptu by Franz Schubert, one of Austria's most celebrated composers. Impromptus are short, expressive piano pieces, and this one showcases Schubert's gift for melody and emotion, reflecting the charm and depth of early Romantic music.

Josefina Villegas – Polish Mazurka by Chopin

Josefina Villegas brings us to Poland with a Mazurka by Frédéric Chopin. Rooted in traditional Polish dance, the mazurka has a lively rhythm and strong national spirit. Chopin transformed it into a poetic form, full of subtle shifts and expressive detail.

Camille Halushak – Austrian Sonatina by Diabelli

Camille Halushak takes us to Austria with Austrian Sonatina by Anton Diabelli. Known for his elegant and accessible style, Diabelli wrote music that's both charming and clear. This sonatina offers a graceful glimpse into early nineteenth-century Viennese piano music.

Isabella Tosado-Diaz – Zombie by O'Riordan

Isabella Tosado-Diaz performs Zombie by Dolores O'Riordan, lead singer of the Irish band The Cranberries. Released in the 1990s, this powerful song blends haunting melody with strong emotion, written in response to real-world conflict and calling for peace.

Jane Caranto – Polish Prelude by Chopin

Jane Caranto performs a Prelude by Frédéric Chopin, one of Poland's most iconic composers. Chopin's preludes are short, expressive pieces that capture deep emotion in just a few moments—this one reflects the beauty and intensity of Romantic-era piano music.

Judy Caranto – Hungarian Dance of Gnomes by Liszt

Judy Caranto takes us to Hungary with Dance of Gnomes by Franz Liszt. Known for his dazzling piano works, Liszt adds a touch of mystery and mischief to this piece, with quick rhythms and unexpected turns that bring the playful world of gnomes to life.

Stephen Dimitri Haluschak – French Minstrels by Debussy

Stephen Dimitri Haluschak performs French Minstrels by Claude Debussy. Inspired by medieval traveling musicians, this piece blends playful rhythms and colorful harmonies in Debussy's unique Impressionist style, offering a lighthearted glimpse into a world of song and storytelling.

Joanne Caranto – Grand Polonaise Brillante by Chopin

We conclude tonight's recital with Joanne Caranto performing Chopin's Grand Polonaise Brillante. The polonaise is a proud Polish dance, and in this virtuosic piece, Chopin adds brilliance, flair, and deep national spirit. It's a dazzling way to end our journey around the world through music.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for joining us for this evening's 7:30 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. Anna Habicht, Lauren Martinez, Diane Morrow. Your dedication means so much. Thank you.

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