

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

Dear Teachers:

Following is the curriculum guide for **Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**, the Sinfonia Music in the Schools' program for this year. This curriculum focuses on "people's music" – common and popular songs and melodies that have been used for hundreds of years by composers in symphonies, chamber music, concertos, and yes, in popular music to be sure! Music is not created in a vacuum, and certainly can and should be seen in the social contexts of when it was written.

Normally, our Music in the Schools has academic focuses, and is structured using state academic standards with related activities. Unfortunately, we could not find state standards for elementary school grade levels for (international) social studies, so instead we focused on the standards and related activities for music. They can be found as separate attachments for the music by Mozart, Mahler, Tchaikovsky and Ponce at the end of this guide. As you teach the curriculum, please relate it to your other subjects - especially in historical and geographic contexts.

Because of the disruptions caused by the coronavirus, this curriculum is being designed both for online and classroom instruction. Unfortunately, it may not be possible for the Sinfonia to visit the schools and play live performances as we typically do. Therefore, this guide contains many video links, which may in part substitute for the Sinfonia's normal live in-school performances. Remembering that one of the pre-requisites for participating in MIS is for students to hear classical music daily in the classrooms, please play the music every day. In more normal times, the school choirs would prepare *Simple Gifts* and the *Ode to Joy* to sing with the Sinfonia, and the school orchestras would learn *Tunes from Across the Land* to play with our musicians. But as we all know, these are not normal times, and so included in this guide are several links to various choral performances, and a computer-generated representation of the *Tunes* is included on the master listening CD.

There are surveys attached to the curriculum, as well as a "community share" page. By all means, please share your ideas with your colleagues and on us how to teach the materials on line, and please fill out the surveys. All ideas are very welcome, and they can help us strengthen our work for your students. This is a fun program, with lots of terrific music. I am sure you and your students we will all enjoy it. I want to say a very special thank you to Wendi Storhoff, Kathleen Hardy, the Bexley, Oh Public Library, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and Barbara Rice for their help with this project.

Thanks for your continued enthusiasm and cooperation for our work, and I look forward to seeing you soon. Until then, I wish you,  
My very best regards,  
Jay Fishman

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

**Repertoire:**

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/arr Jay Fishman
Are You Sleeping	Gustav Mahler/arranged Jay Fishman
Under the Green Apple Tree	Peter Tchaikovsky
Balada Mexicana (composed 1914)	Manuel Ponce/arr Jay Fishman
Danny Boy	arr. Percy Grainger/Jay Fishman
Simple Gifts	Aaron Copland
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen	arr. William Grant Still:
Ode to Joy	Ludwig van Beethoven

No audio/video recordings

Mazel Tov Klezmer Style!	Jay Fishman
An Enchanted Journey	Jay and Bernard Fishman
I'm Comin' Home	Paul Schulz

**Student orchestra**

Tunes from Across the Land	Jay Fishman
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**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Ah! Vous Dirai-Je Mamam (Ah mother, if I could tell you)***  
**[*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*]**

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, born in Salzburg Germany in 1756, and died in Vienna Austria in 1791 is considered to be one of the greatest composers of his era, and actually of all time.
- *Ah! Vous Dirai-Je Mamam* is a very simple French nursery rhyme, from which Mozart composed a set of 12 variations when he was 22 - the same year that his mother died. There is speculation that he composed the piece thinking about his mother's memory.
- Many different titles of this song – perhaps the one most of us are familiar with is *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*, which was created in the early 1800's by two English sisters, Jane and Anne Taylor. But there also is the Alphabet song, and many others.
- Even though part way through Mozart changed the key from major to minor, and in another section changed the meter from duple (2 beats per measure) to triple (3 beats per measure), we can always identify the melody throughout the entire composition.

**Additional Listening Links:**

**VARIATIONS ON TWINKLE LITTLE STAR**

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star – upbeat/rock animated characters:

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rJsA1RD\\_QA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rJsA1RD_QA)

Chu Chu TV Rock and Roll Twinkle Little Star – Karaoke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiNMZBCzfxk&list=PL82D915DAE41329F0>

Brilla Brilla Estrelita

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v\\_CMpQmNbD8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_CMpQmNbD8)

Twinkle Little Star Led Zeppelin Guitar Mash-up Version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQVKR6J4Nmw>

Hip Hop beat - Twinkle Little Star

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txgfJDzfkL0>

Mozart Synesthesia (music made visual) – note the melody is VERTICAL rather than horizontal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKCsujeeu8o>

Music made visible: Video by Stephen Malinowski (smalin YouTube channel) [https://](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zUmLUW_gGw)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zUmLUW\\_gGw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zUmLUW_gGw)

Natalie Schwamova (age 11): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezvj-De6bxY>

Orchestral version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNU51CYIZSg>

**Gustav Mahler: *Symphony No. I, movement III Frere Jacques [Are you Sleeping Brother John]***

- Gustav Mahler was born in Kalist, Bohemia in 1860 and died in Vienna, Austria in 1911
- He was a leading composer of his day, and composed symphonies and songs in a very romantic (lush) style.
- Mahler's music is especially well-known for his imaginative and brilliant use of instruments to create many interesting and exciting orchestral sounds, and, his use of sudden changes of dynamics (louds, softs) to create a driving sense of drama.
- Mahler used the French folksong *Frere Jacques (Are you Sleeping Brother John)*, as the main introduction to the third movement of his first symphony. When sung, the song is in a major key, but Mahler changed it to minor, and has the solo bass play the opening phrases, giving it a somber and unusual feel.

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

- Mahler also used other folk material in his compositions, including some Jewish klezmer like tunes which also can be found in the first symphony.

**Additional Listening Links:**

**MAHLER: Symphony I – [Are You Sleeping]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z8y1K0DLdo>

Orchestra conducted by Leonard Bernstein: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEPERXpOqiU>

Are You Sleeping Around the World: <http://demonsaumonde.free.fr/frere.jacques/index.html>

*(65 languages including Somali, Aramaic, Chinese, Japanese, Turkish, German, French, Spanish, and more languages from around the world – all sung by children in schools in France)*

**Peter Tchaikovsky: *Serenade for Strings, Movement IV [Under the Apple Tree]***

- Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky was born in Kamsko-Votinsk in 1840 and died in St. Petersburg in 1893.
- He is considered one of Russia’s greatest “romantic” (music with lush melodies and harmonies) composers, and composed music for ballet, symphonies, piano and chamber music.
- He is probably best known in our country for his Nutcracker Ballet, which is played and danced hundreds/thousands of times every year across the country as a Christmas Holiday favorite.
- Other favorite orchestral works include *Marche Slav*, *1812 Overture*, the fantasy based on Shakespeare’s story, *Romeo and Juliet*, and his great fourth, fifth and sixth symphonies.
- The Serenade for Strings is 4 movement suite for violins, violas, cellos and bass (no wind players), with the first movement being an homage to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and the last being based on the folk song *Under the Apple Tree*.

**Additional resources on Tchaikovsky’s life and music influences:**

Biography of Tchaikovsky: [https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composer\\_profile.php?id=75](https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composer_profile.php?id=75)

Brief biography at Kiddle Encyclopedia: [https://kids.kiddle.co/Pyotr\\_Ilyich\\_Tchaikovsky](https://kids.kiddle.co/Pyotr_Ilyich_Tchaikovsky)

- This bio has many photos including a statue of Tchaikovsky.

**Additional resources for folk music of RUSSIA:**

For additional songs from Russia, see MamaLisa’s Musical World: <https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=ec&c=157>

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

Balalaika orchestra plays Under the Apple Tree:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PzWQjGgeO0>

Russian Folk Music – Making Music Magazine: <https://makingmusicmag.com/trio-veronezh/>

What makes Russian music “Russian”: (from MPR St. Paul Sunday)

[https://saintpaulsunday.publicradio.org/features/0101\\_russianmusic/](https://saintpaulsunday.publicradio.org/features/0101_russianmusic/)

General information about Russian Folk Songs:

“Russian people, indeed, sang their songs in all situations and at all times.” – Russians are known as a singing people.

[http://www.vadimprokhorov.com/russian\\_folk\\_songs\\_\\_musical\\_genres\\_and\\_history\\_25733.htm](http://www.vadimprokhorov.com/russian_folk_songs__musical_genres_and_history_25733.htm)

Russian folksong Korobeiniki performed by Balalaika orchestra in Russian folk dress:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUIIcoqM2UE>

**TCHAIKOVSKY: *Serenade for Strings movement 4 [Under the Green Apple Tree]***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvwdQFF7Dek>

performed by Youth Orchestra of Venezuela: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2VuuOITAok>

performed from memory (standing): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=se4BRW6KL8o>

ENTIRE (SPCO): <https://content.thespc.org/music/concert-library/composition/serenade-for-strings-piotr-ilyich-tchaikovsky>

**Manuel Ponce: *Balada Mexicana, [Me he de comer un Durazno (I shall eat that peach), Acuerdate de mi (Remember me)]***

- Manuel Ponce who was one of Mexico’s great romantic composers, was born in Zacatecas in 1882, and died in 1948.
- He showed great talent, and then studied in Italy, Germany and Paris.
- He had strong interest in folk, popular and classical music, and was one of a few composers who could bridge all three genres.
- Mr. Ponce composed for all musical genres but was particularly well known for songs and works for guitar.
- The *Balada Mexicana* is a work for solo piano that starts by introducing one of the two folk songs used in the composition, and then evolves into big, romantic tour de force, which is similar in scope to the popular works of the famous Russian composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff.

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

**Additional resources on Ponce's life and music influences:**

Biography of Manuel Ponce: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/literature-and-arts/music-history-composers-and-performers-biographies/manuel-ponce>

Brief biography at Classical connect <https://www.classicalconnect.com/composer/manuel-ponce>

Additional resources for folk music of Mexico:

KAIA Kids Around the World – The Music of Mexico - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKEDd9AQUns>

This video focuses on Mariachi music – it is a recording of a presentation for primary grades students.

For additional songs from Mexico, see MamaLisa's Musical World: <https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=ec&c=50>

Silvia Navarette (piano): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpPkTYmgR6w>

Argentina Duran (Young person) on piano: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXsQCo10h28>

Orchestral version: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_XxVChXQbdo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XxVChXQbdo)

**Percy Grainger: *Irish Tune from the County Derry [Danny Boy]***

- Percy Grainger was an Australian composer, educator and pianist who was born in Brighton, Victoria in 1882 and died in New York City in 1962,
- He was both an experimentalist and traditionalist with his music.
- When he lived in England (1901-1914) he traveled across the countryside, searching for folk music and other interesting melodies that he could incorporate into his works.
- His music fell into two categories: original works and arrangements of folk songs.
- He was the one of the first musicians to make phonograph recordings.
- One of his most popular works was his arrangement of the Irish song from the county of Derry, which we know as *Danny Boy*.

**Additional Listening Links:**

Performed on piano by Percy Grainger: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flQ3G9srw30>

President's Own Marine Band (2018): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWsXMLnsfE4>

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

Australian Youth Orchestra at BBC Proms (2010): - with interview with musicians - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjuk8gBj1fl>

Vocal (Irish tenor Emmet Cahill - 2018): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebulR9HNvY8>

**Aaron Copland: *Appalachian Spring [Simple Gifts]***

- Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1900, and died in North Tarrington, New York in 1990.
- Mr. Copland is best known for his *A Lincoln Portrait for narrator and orchestra* and ballets such as *Billy the Kid*, *Rodeo* and a *Ballet for Martha*, which later was renamed as *Appalachian Spring*.
- The song heard on this program, *Simple Gift* is a Shaker melody (a religious community from the northeast United States), and was the melodic basis for much of as *Appalachian Spring*.
- Copland is often thought of the “dean of American Music, because of his long life, his composing of many works that were very popular during his lifetime and remain so to this day.

**Lyrics to *Simple Gifts***

T’is the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be;  
 And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
 t’will be in the valley of love and de-light;  
 T’is the gift to be gentle 'tis the gift to be fair,  
 t’is the gift to wake and breathe the morning air,  
 And every day to walk in the path we choose,  
 t’is gift that we pray we may ne'er come to lose;  
 When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
 To turn, turn will be our delight, till by turning, turning we come round right.

**Additional Listening Links:**

**COPLAND: Simple Gifts**

Leonard Bernstein conducts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMtCh0VuoKg>

YoYo Ma and Alison Krauss: (song & cello) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOx9guc-iow>

Original ballet (Martha Graham company): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbJelkj5pUU>

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

**William Grant Still: *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen***

- African American composer William Grant Still was born in Woodville, Mississippi in 1895, and died in Los Angeles in 1978.
- He grew up during the time of segregation and the Jim Crow Laws, and in spite of the horrific discrimination that he was constantly exposed to, he became one of the first black American composers to attain national prominence and fame.
  - Mr. Still was a respected composer and teacher, had his music performed by major American orchestras around the country, and earned four honorary doctorates from important American universities.
- Although he sometimes incorporated music from his heritage, he composed in many different styles, and his music cannot be categorized specifically in any one genre.
- Because of his success, and that he broke the color line in classical music, his achievements have sometimes been compared to those of Jackie Robinson in major league baseball.
- The spiritual *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* heard on this program was arranged by William Grant Still.

**Lyrics to *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen***

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen  
 Nobody knows my sorrow  
 Nobody knows the trouble I've seen  
 Glory hallelujah! (Repeat)

Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down  
 Oh, yes, Lord  
 Sometimes I'm almost to the ground  
 Oh, yes, Lord

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen  
 Nobody knows my sorrow  
 Nobody knows the trouble I've seen  
 Glory hallelujah!

**Additional Listening Links:**

**WILLIAM GRANT STILL: Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqdREle6WiY>

As sung by Paul Robeson: (this is a classic recording, great voice, not William Grant Still's arrangement); [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EJSkJlh\\_fg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EJSkJlh_fg)



**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

**Ludwig van Beethoven: Ninth Symphony movement 4, [*Ode to Joy*]**

- Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany in 1770 and died in Vienna, Austria in 1827.
- Although he was deaf for much of his adult life (he heard all of the music he composed in his head), he created some of the most famous symphonies and concertos in the entire repertoire, and to this day is considered one of the most important composers of all time.
- His ninth symphony is considered one of his greatest works, and the last movement uses a full chorus and four soloists.
- The basis for the last movement is an original melody (*Ode to Joy*) based on a poem by the famous poet, Fredrich Schiller, which deals with freedom.
- Because the *Ode to Joy* has become such a popular song and is sung the world over in many different languages, it truly has become a song of the people, which is in fact what folk songs are all about.

**Lyrics to *Ode to Joy***

Praise to Joy, the God descended.  
 Daughter of Elysium,  
 Ray of mirth and rapture blend-ed, goodness to thy shrine we come.  
 By the magic is united, what stern custom parted wide,  
 All mankind are brothers plighted, where thy gentle wings abide,  
 By thy magic is united, what stern custom parted wide.  
 All mankind are brothers plighted, where thy gentle wings abide.

**Additional Listening Links:**

**Beethoven: *Ode to Joy***

Flash mob in Nurnberg, Germany– starts with young girl, maybe 10 yrs old playing theme on recorder, duet with string bass – then small orchestra with choir in German (6 min 32 sec):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a23945btJYw>

Another flashmob – this one from Sabadel, Spain: <https://thekidshoudseethis.com/post/46907718739>

Fun facts written for kids about the “Ode to Joy” [https://kids.kiddle.co/Symphony\\_No.\\_9\\_%22Choral%22\\_\(Beethoven\)](https://kids.kiddle.co/Symphony_No._9_%22Choral%22_(Beethoven))

Film: Beethoven Lives Upstairs – on SchoolTube

[https://www.schooltube.com/media/Beethoven+Lives+upstairs/1\\_ho5pl7lh](https://www.schooltube.com/media/Beethoven+Lives+upstairs/1_ho5pl7lh)

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

Stamford Symphony page

<https://www.stamfordsymphony.org/beethoven-lives-upstairs/>

Music made visual: Entire 4<sup>th</sup> movement: smalin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljGMhDSSGFU>

For just the “Ode to Joy” Start at minute 12:40 – 13:45 – lyrics appear onscreen in German and English translation.

**Jay Fishman: *Mazel Tov, Klezmer Style!***

- Jay Fishman who was born in 1947, is a Minneapolis native, and is the conductor of the Minnesota Sinfonia.
- Aside from conducting in the Twin Cities for the past 41 years, he is also well-known as a composer and arranger, and has nearly 300 published works to his credit.
- Jay Fishman has a very strong interest in education our community’s children, and to that end, he created the Sinfonia’s Music in the Schools, that now serves up to twenty inner-city public elementary schools and nearly 10,000 students every year.
- Jay has combined his composing with his son Bernie’s writing skills to create 8 different stories which are used with the orchestra’s Music in the Schools (see below).
- *Mazel Tov Klezmer Style!* first introduces old Jewish folksongs as they might be sung or played, after which they treated in a fast-paced, often wild and exhilarating “Klezmer” (Jewish wedding celebration) style, which has similarities to music of the Roma (Gypsies).

**Bernard Fishman: *An Enchanted Journey***

- Bernie (as he wants to be called) Fishman was born in 1982 in Columbus, Ohio. His early training was classical piano, and he soon developed an interest in rap and music of the “younger generation.”
- When he was a teenager, he and his brother Loren co-wrote an adaptation of the Hans Christian Anderson Fairytale, *The Nightingale*, which was set to music by his father, Jay Fishman.
- Over the following 15 years, Bernie has authored many stories for children, some including contemporary versions of the fairytales *Cinderella Updated* and *The Ugly Duckling*, and other original stories such as *Bears*, *The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin* and the story heard on this set of performances, *An Enchanted Journey*.
- Bernie now lives in San Diego, California, where he creates beats and CDs and owns the vinyl record store, Beat Box Records.

**MN Sinfonia Music in the Schools, 2021-2022**  
**Folk Tunes - Music from Around the World**

**Paul Schulz: *I'm Comin' Home***

- Clarinetist Paul Schulz joined the Minnesota Sinfonia in 2011.
- Earned performance degrees from the University of North Carolina and Arizona State University.
- Member of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra since 1991, and currently serves as its principal clarinetist.
- Teaches bass and contra clarinet at the University of St. Thomas.
- Is an IT professional.

**Kathleen Hardy, our soloist and storyteller extraordinaire:**

- Has been working with the Minnesota Sinfonia for over twenty years.
- Has an active acting career around the state.
- Has performed in musicals, opera and dramatic theater presentations including *Hair*, *Anything Goes*, *Lost in the Stars*, *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Hamlet* (with an all-female cast).

**General Podcast Links:**

How do Classical Composers Use Folk Music – story from PBS – WQXR:

<https://www.wqxr.org/story/what-kind-folk-music-pops-classical-music/>

Classical Music That Uses Folk Songs (program for kids – includes Mozart variations):

<https://www.wqxr.org/story/306801-classical-music-that-uses-folk-songs/>

Folk Music in Classical Music – BBC program 38 minutes – focus on Percy Grainger and Ralph Vaughan Williams: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01zt6v9>

**Supporting websites:**

Composers biographies for children:

[https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composers\\_az.php?id=P](https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composers_az.php?id=P)