

At the Concert

100 Musicians Led by One Conductor

At the concert, you will see either Music Director Leonard Slatkin or Associate Conductor Emil de Cou lead the 100 members of the NSO in playing music. Conductors develop their own ways to communicate with musicians. Some use a slender white stick called a baton (buh-TAHN) as they conduct; others do not. Some make dramatic gestures while others hardly seem to move. Generally, conductors use the right hand to tell the orchestra the tempo (speed) to play, and use their left hand to indicate dynamics (loud and soft). At the concert, observe the conductor communicating with the NSO.



Leonard Slatkin



Emil de Cou

The Audience—You!

The audience is an important participant at concerts. Until the audience arrives, there are no concerts, only rehearsals. *Flying Across America* is performed in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall and in various cities in Nevada and Nebraska. When you come to a concert, an usher guides you to your seat. Just before the concert begins, the **concertmaster*** enters the stage and the audience applauds. The audience becomes quiet as the

concertmaster invites orchestra members to tune their instruments. When the orchestra is ready, the conductor enters, the audience welcomes him with applause, and the concert begins.

Being a member of a concert audience is different from watching a movie or television. The performers are in the same room with you and are affected by what you do. To do their best, the performers need you to watch and listen closely. The other members of the audience also depend on your quiet attention during the performance so they too can watch and listen closely.



National Symphony Orchestra performs concerts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and throughout the nation and the world.

Watch. Listen. Think. Imagine.

Enjoy *Flying Across America!*

The Kennedy Center

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Leonard Slatkin
Music Director,
National Symphony Orchestra

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Vice President, Education

**National Symphony Orchestra
Young People's Concerts**

Flying Across America

Led by Music Director Leonard Slatkin and Associate Conductor Emil de Cou
For more information about the performing arts and arts education, visit our Web sites:

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Cuesheet

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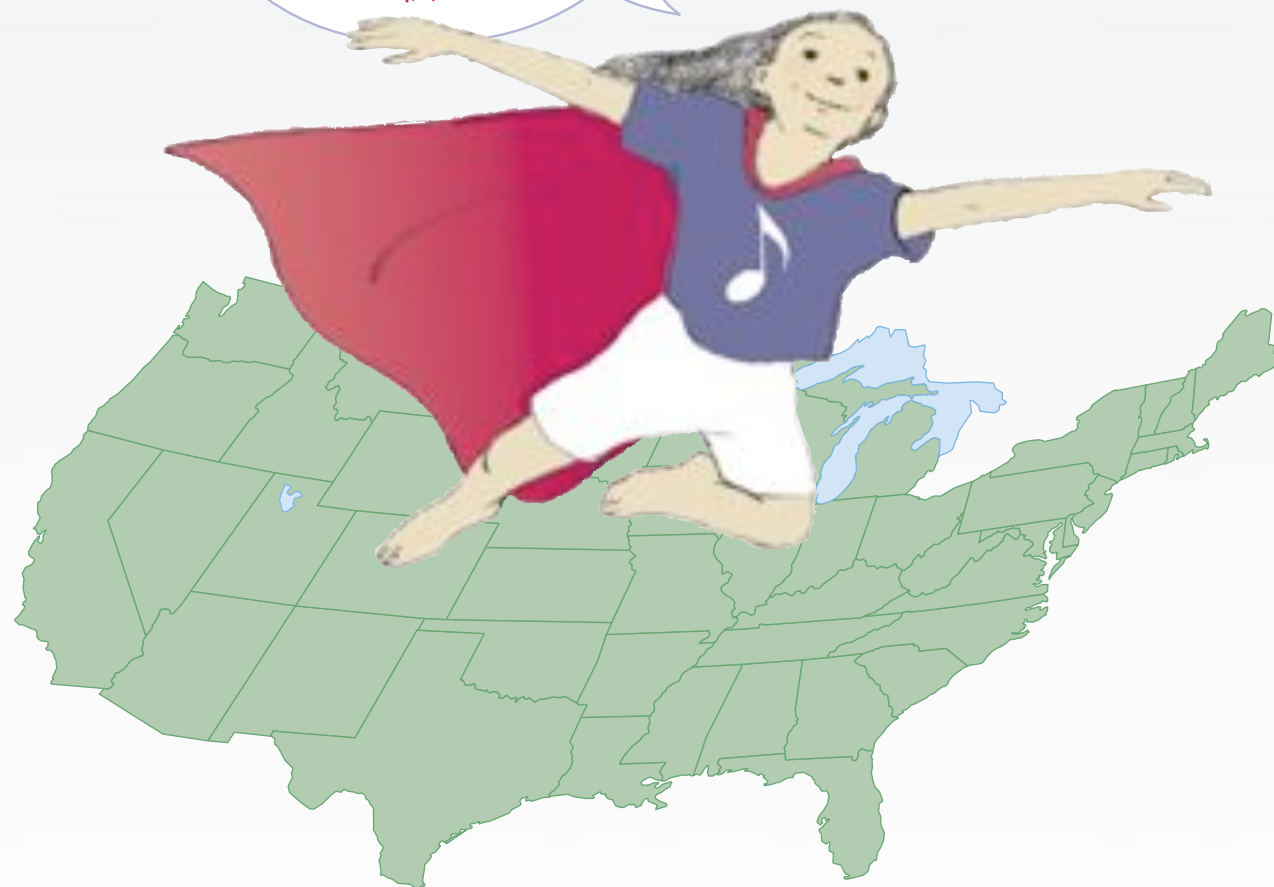
National Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert

Led by Music Director Leonard Slatkin and Associate Conductor Emil de Cou

Flying Across America

Come Fly With Me!

Fly with me across America on an imaginary musical journey with the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO). As part of its 75th Anniversary celebration, the NSO will perform a concert program featuring American composers whose music celebrates towns, cities, and regions across America.
Happy 75th Anniversary, NSO!



Cue sheet
FOR STUDENTS

Welcome to *Cuesheet*, a performance guide published by the Education Department of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO), Washington, D.C. This *Cuesheet* was developed to help you prepare for, enjoy, and remember your experience at the NSO concert.

Look for the compact disc to find listening activities that introduce you to the concert's music.

What's in *Cuesheet*?

Music from the Mississippi River, pages 2-3

Music from Small-Town America, pages 4-5

Music from the American West, pages 6-7

At the Concert, page 8

The NSO Young People's Concerts are made possible by the generous support of

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National Symphony Orchestra
Leonard Slatkin, Music Director



Look below...
there's the mighty
Mississippi River.
Let's check it out!

Music from the Mississippi River

Inspiring American Music

Composer Ferde Grofé (FAIR-dee grow-FAY) was inspired by the great Mississippi River to create the musical composition, *Mississippi River Suite*.^{*} One section of *Mississippi River Suite* was inspired by Huckleberry Finn, the mischief-loving character from Mark Twain's novels, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which take place on and near the Mississippi River.

^{*}Suite—a musical composition consisting of several distinct parts

Listening Activity A: Skipping, Sliding, and Sneaking Around!

For his composition "Huckleberry Finn," Grofé created a spirited, playful melody that captures Huck's carefree character. In the piece, Grofé breaks his main melody into parts, called melodic fragments. Learning words that fit Grofé's main melody will help you recognize this melody and its fragments.

Listening Activity A:

Fragment 1 Skip-ping, slid— ing, and run-ning and skip-ping, slide—

Fragment 2 Skip-ping, slid— ing, and run-ning and

Fragment 3 sneak-ing all a—round

Fragment 4 slid— ing, and



Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer "sneaking all around"



Music from Small-Town America

Ahh! There's nothing like a small-town parade where EVERYONE can join in!



Yikes! What is that racket down there? That group sounds like they could use a few more rehearsals!

Marching Together

Parades celebrate important events in American life such as the 4th of July, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Day. In small towns, parades are especially important for honoring community groups such as the fire fighters, police officers, and girl and boy scouts. Music is an important part of parades. Marches are played because of their strong 1-2-1-2 beat that keeps everyone stepping together **left-right-left-right**.

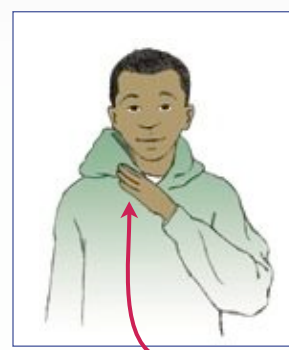
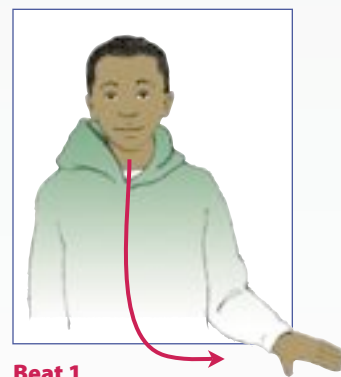
Listening Activity B: Conducting a March

Conductors lead a group of musicians to play together. To do this, conductors move their hands to show, or mark, the music's beat. A march is conducted in two beats—conductors mark beats 1 and 2 over and over throughout the piece.

Beat 1—Swing your hand downward

Beat 2—Return your hand upward

In Listening Activity B, you will conduct a traditional march by John Philip Sousa and then a non-traditional march by Charles Ives. After you complete Listening Activity B, read about Charles Ives and continue to Listening Activity C to find out why Ives' march is so unusual.



Exploring Sound with Charles Ives

Charles Ives loved to experiment with sounds—just like his father, George Ives, a band director and music teacher who created unusual musical compositions. Charles's father once placed band members in a town square and asked each of them to play a different song—at the same time!

Ives' father taught Charles not to worry if other people did not like his music, but to create music that satisfied his own curiosity and imagination. And he did! Charles Ives' music is *very* different from those of other composers.



Listening Activity C: Playing Together —Only Sometimes!

Charles Ives' composition Country Band March sounds like small-town musicians who are having a hard time playing together. Sometimes some musicians lose their place and repeat the same part over and over. Other times, some musicians forget their parts and play a totally different song! Every once in a while, they all pause and then start the march together—only to get lost again!

Your class will be divided into three groups to experiment with “playing” the march “Yankee Doodle” like Ives' mixed-up musicians! Then, when you listen to Ives' march, you will understand how it was composed.

Listening Activity C: An Experimental March

	Group A	Group B	Group C
Part 1	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony
Part 2	Yankee, Yankee, Yankee, Doodle...	Pony, pony, Doodle, Doodle...	Went to town, went to town, riding on a pony...
P A U S E			
Part 3	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony
Part 4	London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down...	London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down...	London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down...
P A U S E			
Part 5	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony
Part 6	Three blind mice, three blind mice...	Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you...	Ring around the rosie, a pocket full of posies...
P A U S E			
Part 7	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony	Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony

Music from the American West

Yee Ha! I hear horses and bucking broncos. We must be out west in cowboy country. Let's swoop down and listen to music about cowhands at a rodeo!



2. Fanning Away the Heat

Listen to the slow melody and imagine you are part of the crowd, gently waving a fan or a hat. What movement would you use if you were hot and tired, fanning yourself to keep cool?

4. Bucking Bronco

Listen for the part that sounds like a kicking horse. How would you move if you were riding on a bucking bronco?

Aaron Copland's Rodeo

Rodeo is the name of a **ballet** about Western ranch life. When composer Aaron Copland created the music for this ballet, he wanted to capture the sounds and spirit of the American West. He did this by including American folk tunes, country-style piano playing, and trotting and bucking rhythms in his music.

cowhands—people who work on a ranch

ballet—a performance in which costumed dancers move to music, often to tell a story

Listening Activity D: Buckaroo Holiday

Here is your chance to identify five important themes from Copland's music. For each of the five themes, you will create a rodeo-style movement. Then you will listen to the entire composition and do your movement when you recognize each theme.

1. Saluting the Crowd

Listen to the excitement and energy of the music and imagine you are a cowhand running into the rodeo arena, waving your hat to salute the crowd. What movement would you do if you were a cowhand greeting the crowd?



3. Riding a Trotting Horse

Listen for the country-style piano playing that imitates the rhythm of a trotting horse. Listen for the sound of the woodblock that imitates the clicking of horses' hooves. How would you move if you were riding a trotting horse?



5. Swinging and Singing

Copland borrowed a melody from an American folk tune. Learning these words will help you recognize his melody.

"If he'd be a **buckaroo** by his trade,
I'd have him a **lasso** ready made;
And if he ropes those cows all right,
He'll be sleepin' sound under stars
tonight." (repeat last two lines)

Listen for this melody. How would you move if you were a cowhand swinging a lasso and singing a folk tune?

buckaroo—a cowhand who rides wild bucking horses (broncos)

lasso—a rope used by cowhands, looped and swung in circles and then thrown to catch cows or wild horses

