CSO Docent Presentation
Elements of Music
Grade 6
Sarah Good, Zoe Quan
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Concepts:
- Meter, Rhythm, Tempo, Theme and Variation, Dynamics, Timbre

Materials:
- Docent Name Plate
- Music Element Definitions

Presentation Outline:
1. CSO P/R Statement
   - Who remembers our names?
   - Who remembers what musical organization I represent?
   - Re-introduce CSO
   - Re-introduce myself

2. Previous Week Review
   - What’s an Orchestra?
   - How is it different from a Jazz Band?
     - Review Instrument Families
     - What makes each family unique?

3. Theme of the Day
   1. Have you ever build something or watched something being built
      a. House, model airplane, musical instrument?
   2. What elements do you need to build a house?
   3. Just like a house, music is built by using various “Elements of Music”
   4. Show a Large Poster with the Elements

5. No Music – have class stand
   1. ELEMENT - Rhythm
   2. Start with Clap and Response Exercise
     - Ask which Element of Music did we just use

6. “American Salute”, Morton Gould (based on a song from the Civil War)
   3. ELEMENT – Meter (it’s the heartbeat) – 2/4 time
   4. Conducting Exercise
     - Discuss the conductor
     - Write CSO conductor name on the board
       - “Maestro” Daniel Barenboim
     - Remember the “heartbeat”
     - Remember 4/4 Meter? 1,2,3,4, 2,2,3,4, 3,2,3,4 ……
     - This time it’s 2/4 meter. 1,2, 1,2, 1,2, ……
     - Practice Conducting
   5. Conduct as a class.

6. “Flight of the Bumblebee”
   6. ELEMENT – Tempo
     - Is it fast or slow?
   7. ELEMENT – Timbre (tone color)
LISTEN AGAIN: WHAT INSTRUMENT IS PLAYING THE SOLO?
• DISCUSS TONE COLOR
• WHAT IMAGE DOES THE MUSIC MAKE YOU THINK OF? IS IT AN ANIMAL?
• WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC THE COMPOSER USES TO MAKE YOU THINK IT’S A BUMBLEE?

3 – “LITTLE TRAIN OF CAIPIRA”
• LISTEN: WHAT IMAGE DOES THIS MUSIC MAKE YOU THINK OF? ELEMENTS OF MUSIC?

8. 4 “SYMPHONY 94 - SURPRISE”
   1. ELEMENT – DYNAMICS
   2. SURPRISE IS A MUSICAL JOKE
   3. DYNAMICS - INTRODUCE THIS CONCEPT.

4. 5 “VARIATIONS ON “AMERICA”
   4. ELEMENT – MELODY, THEME AND VARIATIONS
   5. 6 LISTEN TO THE THEME – IS IT FAMILIAR?
   6. LISTEN TO VARIATION 2 – LISTEN FOR 3 ELEMENTS OF MUSIC THAT MAKE IT A VARIATION.
      • CAN THEY HEAR THE THEME? IS IT PROMINENT OR IN THE BACKGROUND?
      • WHAT ELEMENTS OF MUSIC MAKE THIS DIFFERENT FROM THE MAIN THEME?
   7. LISTEN TO VARIATION 3 – LISTEN FOR 3 ELEMENTS OF MUSIC THAT MAKE IT A VARIATION.
      • CAN THEY HEAR THE THEME? IS IT PROMINENT OR IN THE BACKGROUND?
      • WHAT ELEMENTS OF MUSIC MAKE THIS DIFFERENT FROM THE MAIN THEME?