



The Music of Washington's World

(These lessons are directly related to Virginia Chamber Orchestra's streaming of *The Music of Washington's World* at <http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org>)

Lesson Plan #1 of 1 (with subsequent classes based on practice and proficiency on the songs/arrangements in this lesson)

Objectives of this Lesson Plan:

1. The students will learn how to sing the parody song *War and Washington* based on *British Grenadiers*.
2. The students will learn the history behind the song called *War and Washington*.
(optional)
3. The students will learn to sing and will take performance test on *War and Washington*.
4. The students will learn to play and will take a recorder performance test on *War and Washington*.
5. The students will learn to play and take an Orff performance test on *War and Washington*.
6. The students will share their knowledge learned on a essay test on *War and Washington*.
7. The students will enhance their note reading and knowledge of the technique or music transcription by copying the melodic score of *War and Washington*.

Materials Used:

1. *The Music of Washington's World* streaming video (<http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org>)
2. Printed or electronic copy of the PDF file included in this unit (see PDF attachment)
3. Printed copies of the song sheets(and any of the other handouts) of *War and Washington*

(Optional -- These song sheets, recorder fingering charts and assessments may be scanned and used with a laptop, LCD and whiteboard or Blackboard. These arrangements may also be copied for use in a Powerpoint presentation.)

Prior Knowledge and Experiences/Curriculum Content:

1. The students should have some understanding of George Washington as a Captain and General.
2. The students should have some knowledge about the conflict between the English and American colonists.
3. The students should know that, because of his military acumen, George Washington was chosen to become the first President of the United States.

Connections to the National Standards of Music:

(Choose as many Connections as your chosen lesson series adapted from this VCO lesson plan will accommodate.)

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
8. Understanding relationships between music, and the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
8. Understanding music in relation to history and culture

Procedures:

(Depending on the depth in which you would like to take this series of lessons, each of these activities will take more than one class period. The level of mastery will be left to your discretion.)

1. Tell the students the meaning of “parody” as used music -- a recycling of musical ideas; often a known tune with new lyrics which have a comic effect or ridicule
2. Share the following information about the composer with the students:

Jonathan M. Sewall (1749-1808 who was born in Salem, Massachusetts) was adopted and raised by his uncle, Chief Justice Stephen S. Sewall. Jonathan Sewall, who studied law in New Hampshire, became very interested in the politics of the Revolutionary era.

As many songs typical of political satire, popular song melodies are used and the lyrics are changed. Sewall changed the title and lyrics to the tune of *British Grenadiers* to *War and Washington* and it became very popular with the colonists.

3. Acquaint the students with the history and poking fun in the song by going through each verse of *War and Washington*. Use as many verses as your chosen grade level (or state Standards of Learning mandates) includes. Depending on time or depth of study, more verses may be used in gifted lessons or learning centers.

Indicators of Success:

(Again, depending on the learning activities you chose in this lesson series, the indications of mastery will be specific to those opportunities.)

1. The students will learn the history of the composer and song *War and Washington*
2. The students will learn to sing song., *War and Washington*
(optional)
3. The students will be able to show their singing mastery on a *War and Washington* vocal performance test
4. The students will be able to show their recorder mastery on a *War and Washington* performance test
5. The students will be able to show their solo and group Orff group performance proficiency by being able to perform *War and Washington*
6. The students will be able to understand and transcribe a musical score of *War and Washington*.

Assessment:

(Assessment will be dependent on the learning activities you chose in this lesson series.)

Subjective, Informal Assessment

1. Singing accuracy and quality
2. Recorder performance mastery
3. Orff performance mastery

(and/or)

Formal Objective Assessment

1. Written recorder test
2. *War and Washington* written Essay Test

Comments and Additional Material:

1. You may wish to use these arrangements in a musical performance.
2. You may consider sharing these learning activities with your classroom teachers.
3. You may want to consider using these activities or assessments for display.
4. Invite your students' teachers or the administration to your classroom for mini-performances. (Any time you can share how you masterfully integrate social studies and music, you will be enhancing your educational reputation as well as promoting the arts.)