Musical Explorers
My City, My Song
A Program of Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute for Students in Grades K–2

2020 | 2021
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Welcome to Our Musical Trip!

Our subway conductor, Melody, will take us to neighborhoods all over New York City, where we’ll discover the music and cultures that we will be studying.
Explore the Sounds of Our City

Music is everywhere! Let’s go on a sound exploration. All you need are your ears. You can use this explorer’s journal to record what you hear, including car horns and sirens, people singing, the chimes for the subway doors, and even silence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What did you hear?</th>
<th>When and where?</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="firetruck.png" alt="Sirens" /></td>
<td>on my street going to school</td>
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Discover Music in Everyday Objects

Music is waiting to be found in everyday objects!

Experiment and see what kinds of sounds you can make with these objects.

What other objects can you find that make interesting musical sounds?
New York City
Southeastern United States
Native American
Martha
Son Jarocho
Villalobos Brothers
Calypso
Etienne
Iliusha Tsinadze by fmoran; Martha Redbone by Michael Weintrob; Sbongiseni “Bongi” Duma and Tshidi Manye by Fadi Kheir.
We can hear music from all around the world in New York City. Where do these types of music come from?

**Georgian Folk**
Georgia

**Native American**
Southeastern United States

**South African Zulu**
South Africa

**Son Jarocho**
Mexico

**Sicilian Folk**
Sicily

**Calypso**
Trinidad and Tobago
Create a Postcard

Use the space below to draw or paste pictures of some of your favorite things about your neighborhood. Then write a message to one of our Musical Explorers artists describing your neighborhood.
Carnegie Hall Musical Explorers Song

Every song tells a story, every tune tells a tale.
Every rhythm has a reason, don’t you want to know?
Don’t you want to know what makes the music go?
Come along and see, make your discovery.

I can sing it.

I can say it.

I can dance it.

I can play it.

(x2)

I can go explore the world of music at my door.
My city and my neighborhood, singing songs and feeling good.
I can know what makes the music grow.
I can know what makes the music go!
Meet Ilusha!

Gamarjoba!

My name is Ilusha, and I sing and play music from Georgia, the country where I was born. My family moved to the United States when I was eight years old. It was hard to be an immigrant then because I didn’t know English, and I had to learn how to fit in at school. But with time, I realized that coming from a different place was cool. I’m so happy to share a couple of Georgian folk songs with you!

Ketili survilebit,

Ilusha
We asked Ilusha ...

Where did you grow up?
For my first eight years, I lived in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. We then moved to Bloomfield, New Jersey, where we lived in an apartment complex with 20 or 30 other families who came from the same part of the world as we did. I had friends there from Ukraine, Russia, Uzbekistan, Belarus, and other countries.

What are Georgians known for?
Georgians love feasts! The word for a feast is supra, and if you ever visit a Georgian, you might be in for one. One person will be asked to make lots of toasts at a supra, to wish for good health, love, and most importantly, peace for all the people there.

What is some of the traditional clothing worn in Georgian culture?
For dances and concerts, men may wear the chokha and women wear the kartuli kaba.
Explore the Georgian Language

Georgian is a unique language. It is not related to any other in the world and even has its own 33-letter alphabet. In Georgian, the word for father is “mama,” and mother is “deda”! Trace the words below and then draw a picture of the word in each box.

- **Dancing:** Tsevka
- **Drum:** Doli
- **Guitar:** Gitara
- **Music:** Musika
Write Your Own Version of "Shen Genatsvale"

Think about someone you may miss in your life and write your own version of "Shen Genatsvale." You can use the phrase "shen genatsvale" as your refrain, or you can write your own refrain in English that expresses the same idea. In the boxes, write phrases that will be said before each refrain, just like in the song.

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain
Meet Martha!

**GREETINGS FROM**

**FORT GREENE, BROOKLYN**

Siyo/Halito Musical Explorers!

I was born in New York City to parents from diverse backgrounds: My mother was Native American and my father was African American. I spent a lot of my childhood with my Cherokee/Shawnee grandmother and Choctaw grandfather in Black Mountain, Kentucky, a small coalmining town in the hills of Appalachia. Although we were just like any other American family, we also had our own traditional ways, prayers, and songs. I moved back to Brooklyn when I was small, but we visited Kentucky often for ceremonies. Today I live in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. I am so excited to play, sing, and share the music from my homeland with you!

Wado/Yakoke,

Martha

Musical Explorers
c/o Carnegie Hall
881 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019

Leaving from
Brighton Beach, Brooklyn

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Fort Greene photo by Teri Tynes; Martha Redbone childhood photo courtesy of artist. Martha traditional photo by Michael Weintrob; Black Mountain photo by iLoveMountains.org; ankle rattles by Uyvsl.
We asked Martha ...

When did you start playing music?
I began singing at a very young age. At my kindergarten graduation, we sang the alphabet song in call and response style, and I was the lead singer! I was eight years old when I began piano lessons and 11 when I started to play guitar.

What instruments do you play now?
My main instrument is my voice. I walk with it, speak with it; it’s easy to carry but very delicate, so I am extra careful with how I use it. I also play hand and foot percussion, shakers and rattles and tambourine!

What is your favorite thing about performing your style of music?
I love incorporating Native American traditional music into today’s music, keeping our culture alive by mixing the past with the present.

What inspires you?
My family and my ancestors inspire me. They went through some very challenging struggles throughout American history. Yet we are still here having survived the struggle, and now I can share their stories.
Create Your Own Rattle

The rattle is an important Native American percussion instrument. Rattles are made from materials found in nature. For example, the body can be made from a gourd or turtle shell that is filled with pebbles. The rattles are decorated with traditional patterns, feathers, and beads.

You can make your own rattle and decide what sound it will make by the materials you choose.

1. Take an empty water bottle or other container.

2. Choose your noisemakers. Try rice, dried beans or pasta, sand, pebbles, or anything that makes a sound. Put in a little or a lot. What sound do you like best?

3. Tape a stick to each side of the container to make handles.

4. Decorate your rattle. Use paper, paint, markers, beads, feathers, and your imagination!
My Own Ribbon Skirt

Martha is wearing her ribbon skirt, which has different colors and patterns that are special to her. Use the skirt outline below to draw your own ribbon skirt using colors and patterns that are special to you!
Meet Bongi and Tshidi!

Sanibonani Musical Explorers!

Have you heard of the musical called The Lion King? We are both in that show on Broadway! A lot of the music in The Lion King is in a South African style called mbube, which means “lion” in Zulu. We both grew up in South Africa where we first learned to sing Zulu songs and even made instruments from things we found in our neighborhoods. We’re excited to share both traditional and new songs with you at Carnegie Hall!

Sala kahle,
Bongi and Tshidi

Leaving from Fort Greene, Brooklyn

Musical Explorers
c/o Carnegie Hall
881 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019

Durban, South Africa
We asked Bongi and Tshidi ...

What is your earliest musical memory?
Bongi: I remember singing with the school choir in middle school and with my community group outside of school.

What are some of the foods you ate growing up?
Tshidi: Food in my culture? Where do I start! We have ujeqe, which is a dumpling; amanqina, which is either chicken feet or cow feet; and pap, which is cornmeal. One of my favorites is the insides of a cow or goat with isitambu, a mixture of corn and beans. Oooooh mama!

How many languages do you speak?
Tshidi: I speak six African languages, plus English.

What inspires you?
Bongi: I’m inspired by people and their wild stories, and by different cultures and their music and customs.
Zulu Beadwork

In Zulu culture, beadwork like this is an important form of decoration. Beadwork is also a form of communication! Different shapes and colors have different meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shapes</th>
<th>Colors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a girl who is not married</td>
<td>a married woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a boy who is not married</td>
<td>a married man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>love</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>anger</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>happiness</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

So this △ is a happy girl. And this △△ is a married couple who love each other.

You can create your own beadwork message using shapes and colors.

My shapes:

________ means ____________
________ means ____________

My colors:

________ means ____________
________ means ____________

Now use your shapes and colors to make a message.
Animals in Zulu Folktales

In Zulu folktales, animals take on human qualities to teach people lessons. What animal do you like? Draw a picture of your special animal and choose the human qualities your animal has.

My animal is a _________________________________.
Its special human qualities are ________________________________.
It’s Concert Time!

Circle things you WILL do while you watch the concert. Put an “X” through things you WON’T do while you watch the concert.

**Sleep**

**Dance**

Use all four kinds of voices: whispering, talking, calling, and singing

**Have fun!**

**Run**

**Get bored**

**Talk during the music**

**Cheer!**

**Open your ears**

**Move**

**Follow directions**

**Sing**

**Watch how the musicians play and sing**

**Laugh**

**Listen to the performers**

**Eat popcorn**

**Clap**
What Did You See and Hear in the Concert?

Draw pictures of your concert experience below.
Who Is Your Favorite Artist?

Write a letter to your favorite artist. Be sure to include your favorite part of the concert and your favorite song from the concert.

Dear _______________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

Your friend,
Meet the Villalobos Brothers!

Hola!

We are Ness, Beto, and Luis, and we are brothers from Veracruz, Mexico. We each started playing the violin when we were around five years old, and, well, we never stopped! Our home state, Veracruz, is a beautiful place with lots of sun, ocean, music, and delicious food. We've traveled the world sharing our music and our message of love and brotherhood, and we are excited to share these folk tunes from our home country with you!

Like we say in Mexico, “Nos vemos pronto, amigos!” (“See you soon, my friends!”)

Ernesto (Ness), Alberto (Beto), and Luis

Musical Explorers

Leaving from Broadway, Manhattan

Greetings from Sunset Park, Brooklyn!
We asked the Villalobos Brothers ...

What is one of your first musical memories?
Every time our abuela Cristina would come to visit, she’d bring her accordion and guitar, and we’d jam with her. This became a way to connect with our Mexican roots and learn many folk tunes.

What is some traditional Mexican food?
Mexican food is famous around the world because it’s simply delicious! One of the most famous Mexican dishes is mole, a thick sauce made from several ingredients like roasted nuts, dried chiles, corn (masa), chocolate, and tomatoes. You can serve the mole over rice or chicken. Mole is even better if you have handmade corn tortillas to go with it!

What is your favorite holiday?
In Mexico, we do not celebrate Halloween, but Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). It is said that on this day, the souls of our dear ones who have passed away come back to our world. It is a tradition to have a big altar with their favorite food, flowers, and some of their pictures, and to visit their graves and light candles. Some of our favorite dishes, like “tamales” and “pan de muerto” are made especially around this time of the year (no wonder it’s one of our favorite holidays!).
La Guacamaya in Flight

A guacamaya, or macaw, is a large parrot from Veracruz, Mexico. They are known for their beautiful colors, brightening up the sky when they fly! Color the macaw and the sky below in your favorite, bright colors!
My Own Rhythmic Pattern

You can create your own rhythmic pattern using two simple things: your favorite foods and your body!

First, think about a few foods that have two syllables in them, like “pizza.” Then do the same thing with foods with three syllables like “spaghetti.” Next, pick which body sounds you want to use in your pattern, like clapping hands, patting on your laps, or tapping your shoulders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pick a Food with Two Syllables</th>
<th>Pick a Joining Word</th>
<th>Pick a Food with Three Syllables</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pi</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spa</strong></td>
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Now, you try!
Explore Instruments in Son Jarocho

**REQUINTO**
A four- or five-stringed, guitar-shaped instrument that plays the melody of the tune

**LEONA**
A large four-stringed, guitar-shaped instrument that makes a low sound like a bass guitar

**JARANA**
An eight-stringed, guitar-shaped instrument

**QUIJADA**
A percussion instrument traditionally made from a donkey jawbone with teeth that rattle when you strike or scrape it

**PAN DERO**
A small hand drum that often has small metal jingles around the frame

**TARIMA**
A raised, wooden platform used as a dance floor for zapateado
Meet Julia!

I am Julia, and I’m so excited for you to join me on a voyage to Sicily, the beautiful island at the southern end of Italy. Sicily is known for its bright sun, blue seas, fishing, and delicious tomatoes and olives. Our folk songs express our deepest feelings, and we love to come together to sing and share in life’s joys and sorrows. I can’t wait to share some of these songs with you.

Ciao!
Julia

Leaving from
Sunset Park, Brooklyn

Ciao a tutti!

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881 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019
We asked Julia ...

What is one of your favorite Sicilian traditions?
When I was small in Sicily, I always looked forward to the time when l’opera di puppi—the traveling puppet theater—came to Scoglitti, where I spent the summers with my grandma. They traveled from town to town performing shows from the back of a wooden cart, using puppets and songs to tell stories. It’s a very old tradition!

What is your earliest musical memory?
I remember my Uncle Paolo playing guitar on the beach with my whole family joining in to sing along with him. It wasn’t until I was 28 years old that I learned to play the guitar myself!

What are your favorite Sicilian foods?
Anything with sun-dried tomatoes or tomato sauce. Every summer all the women in my family make tomato sauce and preserve it to eat all winter long.

Is there a special game played in Sicily?
Bocce, a ball game traditionally played with wooden balls, where you try to bowl the balls so that they land as close as possible to the smallest ball, called the boccino.
Become a Cantastoria

In Sicily, a cantastoria is a performer who travels from town to town telling stories by using pictures, words, and melodies that they make up.

What story do you think is important to tell? Draw three pictures that tell the story.

Now perform each scene in your story. You can speak or sing the different parts of the story.
Sicilian Folk Instruments

TAMBURELLO
the percussion instrument that keeps the beat

ORGANETTO
a kind of accordion invented around 200 years ago

GUITAR
called “chitarra” in Sicilian and often played by solo singers accompanying themselves

MARRANZANU
sometimes called the jaw harp, an instrument played with your mouth with a twangy sound
Learn About Sicily

Sicily, the “Island of the Sun,” is shaped like a triangle. It is part of Italy, which is shaped like a boot.

Over thousands of years, Sicily has been ruled by many cultures including Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and others. That’s why its culture is like a big melting pot.
Sicily has its own language that combines all these cultures. It is so different from Italian that Italians can’t understand it.

There are three active volcanoes in Sicily. Mount Etna is the tallest.
Meet Etienne!

Bonjou, Musical Explorers!

My name is Etienne, and I am a singer and trumpet player from the island of Trinidad. Trinidad is famous for its Carnival, and Carnival is famous for its calypso music—my favorite! Every September there is a big Carnival parade on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn with lots of calypso music.

I can’t wait to sing and jump up with you at the concert!

Ovwa,
Etienne

Musical Explorers
c/o Carnegie Hall
881 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019

Leaving from
Bensonhurst, Brooklyn

Greetings from Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn

34th Annual West Indian American Carnival Parade by Richard Levine; Etienne childhood photo courtesy of artist.
Jab molassie photo by Tony Boydon; Steel band photo by Tony Hisgett is licensed by CC BY 2.0; pelau photo by Cynthia Nelson.
We asked Etienne ...

What are your first musical memories?
At school, we sang in the choir from age four. Even before that, I heard calypso and many other styles of music on my parents’ record player at home.

What is your favorite food from Trinidad?
My favorite Trini food is pelau. It’s a one-pot dish with rice, beans, and chicken. So tasty!

Do you have a favorite Carnival character?
One of my favorites is Jab Molassie, one of the first characters I ever played. Jab Molassie is a devil—you smear your body with tar or grease, usually dyed in bright blue, red, or green.
Explore the Steel Pan

The steel pan is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago. Steel pans were originally made from oil drums—big metal containers used to hold oil. The top of the oil drum is heated and stretched into a bowl shape, and then dents are carefully molded into the surface. Each dent plays a different pitch; the bigger the dent, the lower the pitch.
Calypso Rhymes

Here are some words about calypso. Draw a line between words that rhyme.

sing  dance
dance  song
made  can
song  fun
long  parade
fun  thing
pants  parade
pan

Now use the rhyming pairs from above to complete these calypso lyrics.

The day is here, here comes the ______________________________
I’m sure that we’ll have lots of_____________________________
I wear the costume that I _________________________________
And run to join in the _________________________________
My friend is playing a steel _______________________________
While I play on an old tin _______________________________
A man is wearing bright red _______________________________
He jumps and chips, it’s quite a ___________________________
Then everybody starts to _________________________________
I think that is my favorite ________________________________
We celebrated all day _________________________________
And so ends my calypso ________________________________
Welcome to Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall!

Hey there, Musical Explorers! My name is Steven, and I’ll be your host! I can’t wait to go on this journey with you as we discover how music and dance from around the world can bring us all closer together. Join me and get ready to sing, dance, and explore!

Meet Steven!

Meet the ushers!
This is Carnegie Hall.

You’ll enter here and go down the escalator.

Your ushers will meet you at the bottom of the escalator and guide you into beautiful Zankel Hall. Everyone will get a great seat!
What Did You See and Hear in the Concert?

Draw pictures of your concert experience below.
Who Is Your Favorite Artist?

Write a letter to your favorite artist. Be sure to include your favorite part of the concert and your favorite song from the concert.

Dear ______________,

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Your friend,
Acknowledgments

Photos

TG8: Ilusha Tsinadze photo by fmoran; Martha Redbone by Michael Weintrob; Sbongiseni “Bongi” Duma and Tshidi Manye by Fadi Kheir. TG9: The Villalobos Brothers by Pablo Cruz Irastorza; Julia Patinella by Fadi Kheir; Etienne Charles by Jason Henry. TG13: Children playing tube trumpets by Stephanie Berger; bucket drummer by Nan Palmero; boy playing straw oboe by Stephanie Berger; kitchen supplies by Hillarie O’Toole. TG24: Ilusha Tsinadze childhood photo courtesy of artist; NYC Brighton Beach by Daniel Schwen. T25: Boys in chockas by Karen Shimizu; kartuli kaba by Michael Pope; Tbilisi photo by Nino Ozbetelashvili. TG26: Ushgula svaneti 1822 by Ilan Molcho. TG36: Fort Greene photo by Teri Tynes; Martha Redbone childhood photo courtesy of artist. TG37: Martha traditional photo by Michael Weintrob; Black Mountain photo by iLoveMountains.org; ankle rattles by Uyvsdi. TG42: Algonquin turtle rattle by Marilyn Angel. TG47: Martha ribbon skirt photo courtesy of artist. TG50: Broadway Times Square by pianist_215; Durban, South Africa by Stayza. TG51: Ujeqe by The African Gourmet; South African fans photo by Celso Flores; African instruments photo by Paul Brennan. TG62: Beadwork example photo by the Brooklyn Museum. TG70: Villalobos Brothers childhood photo courtesy of artist; Abuela Cristina photo courtesy of artist; Mexican Independence Day musicians photo courtesy of Brooklyn Eagle / Corazon Aguirre. TG71: Dia de los muertos photo by Stacy Arturogi; tamale photo by Ivette Degollado; mole photo by Deb Nystrom. TG84: Jarana photo courtesy of artist; leona photo courtesy of artist; requinto photo courtesy of artist; Quijada photo by laubrau; tarima photo courtesy of artist; pandero photo by Molotok289. TG86: Santa Rosalia photo by Ed Wilkinson; Julia childhood photo courtesy of artist; l’opera di puppi photo by Gabriella Alu’; sundried tomatoes photo by Andrew Deacon; bocce photo by Mark Herreid. TG96: Tamburello photo by Pavel Savchuk; organetto photo by robypangy; guitar photo by Pearl Washington; boy with Marranzanu photo by Maria Symchych; marranzanu photo by Pshenichka. TG100: Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn photo by Nick Normal; Etienne childhood photo courtesy of artist. TG101: Jab Molassie photo by Idobi; steel band photo by Tony Hisgett; pelau photo by Cynthia Nelson.

Illustrations


Additional Contributors


Special Thanks

Special thanks to Sarah Cullen.