

CARNEGIE HALL

Weill Music Institute

Student  
Guide



# Musical Explorers

## My City, My Song

A Program of the Weill Music Institute at  
Carnegie Hall for Students in Grades K-2



2016 | 2017



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Weill Music Institute



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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.

| What did you hear?   | When and where?                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
|  Sirens | on my street<br>going to school |
|  |                                 |
|  |                                 |
|  |                                 |
|  |                                 |
|  |                                 |

# 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.



List other objects you find that make interesting musical sounds.

## Musical Explorers Around the World Map

We can hear music from all around the world in New York City. Where do these types of music come from?

### **Sudanese Celebration Songs**

Sudan

### **Bluegrass**

Appalachia  
British Isles  
West Africa

### **Chinese Traditional**

China

### **Calypso**

New York City  
Trinidad and Tobago

### **Armenian Folk**

Armenia

### **Hip-Hop**

New York City

### **BLUEGRASS**



**Michael**

### **HIP-HOP**



**Circa '95**

*Appalachia*  
*New York City*

*Trinidad  
and Tobago*

### **CALYPSO**



**Etienne**



**ARMENIAN FOLK**



**Zulal**

**CHINESE TRADITIONAL**



**Qian Yi**

*British Isles*

*Armenia*

*China*

*West Africa*

*Sudan*

**SUDANESE CELEBRATION SONGS**



**Alsarah**



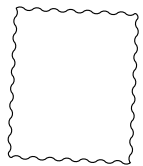
## Create a Postcard

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.

**Greetings from ...**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Your friend,  
\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Artist's name)

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

# 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 Michael!



Hello Musical Explorers!

My name is Michael, and I am a singer and guitarist who moved to Brooklyn from down south in Atlanta, Georgia. I grew up playing a style of American music called bluegrass with my parents. Some of the songs my parents taught me have been played for hundreds of years! I can't wait for you to hear my band. You might recognize some of our instruments, like the bass, guitar, and violin (or fiddle as we like to call it), but others, like the banjo and mandolin, might be new to you.

See you at the concert!

Michael



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



## We asked Michael ...

### What was your favorite memory of listening to bluegrass as a child?

I used to love it when my parents would have music parties and invite all of their musician friends over to jam. There's something special about sitting around in your own house making music with your friends and family. You don't need to always listen to recordings or go to a concert hall to enjoy music—you can also make your own music any time, and share it with friends!

### Who are your favorite bluegrass musicians and why?

My favorite bluegrass musician is Bill Monroe, who people call the "Father of Bluegrass Music." A long time ago he made up a new style that no one had ever heard before, and then a lot of people wanted to play it, and to this day, still do. I also love Ralph Stanley. He has such a cool voice that sounds about 200 years old.



Arriving at  
Park Slope, Brooklyn



## Make Your Own Bluegrass Band

Here are all the instruments you need to make your very own bluegrass band. Draw a picture of your band!



BANJO

FIDDLE



MANDOLIN

GUITAR

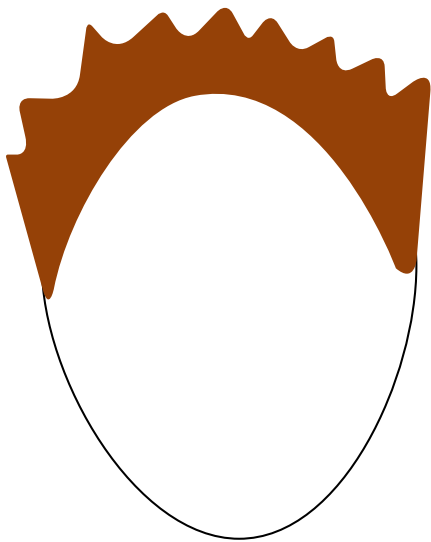
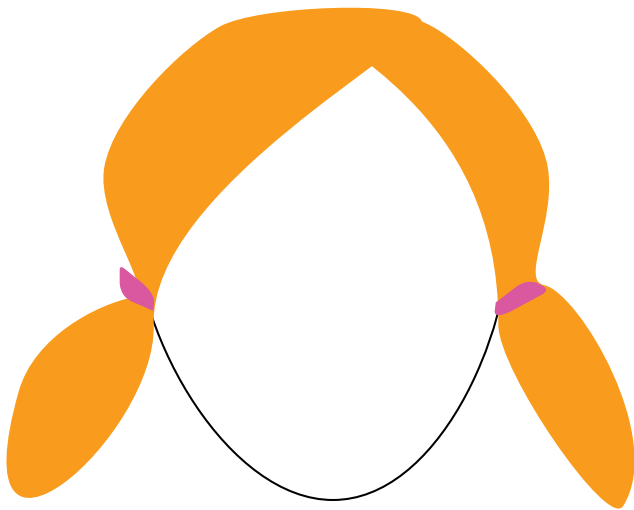


BASS

My bluegrass band's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Explore Emotions and Opposites Through “In the Pines”

We can feel many emotions when we sing. Draw some emotions and their opposites on the faces below. Be sure to write what each emotion is!



## Meet Qian Yi!



Ni hao, Musical Explorers,

I was born in Shanghai, China, and first began singing in the choir when I was eight years old. When I turned 10, I was picked to go to the Shanghai Opera School. I studied Chinese opera for many years in my home country. Now I love to sing all different kinds of Chinese traditional music, including folk songs. I can't wait to share these songs with you!

Your friend,  
Qian Yi

P.S. On Bayard Street in Chinatown, there's a garden where Chinese opera can be heard almost every day, and especially on the weekends!



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

Leaving from  
Park Slope, Brooklyn



## We asked Qian Yi ...

**What was your first memory of hearing traditional Chinese music as a child?**

I remember hearing my grandmother singing opera songs at home.

**Do you have a favorite Chinese traditional song?**

Yes, "Mo Li Hua"!

**Did you have a favorite Chinese fairy tale as a child?**

I loved the story called "The River Snail Lady." This story is about a poor fisherman who caught a river snail one day and put her in a fish tank in his house. Every day after that, when he would come home there would be warm food waiting for him on the dinner table. One day, he discovered that the snail transformed into a beautiful woman each day while he was away to prepare the food. He and the woman fell in love and lived happily ever after.



Here's how you write the word *music* in Chinese. Try writing it yourself by tracing over the lines.

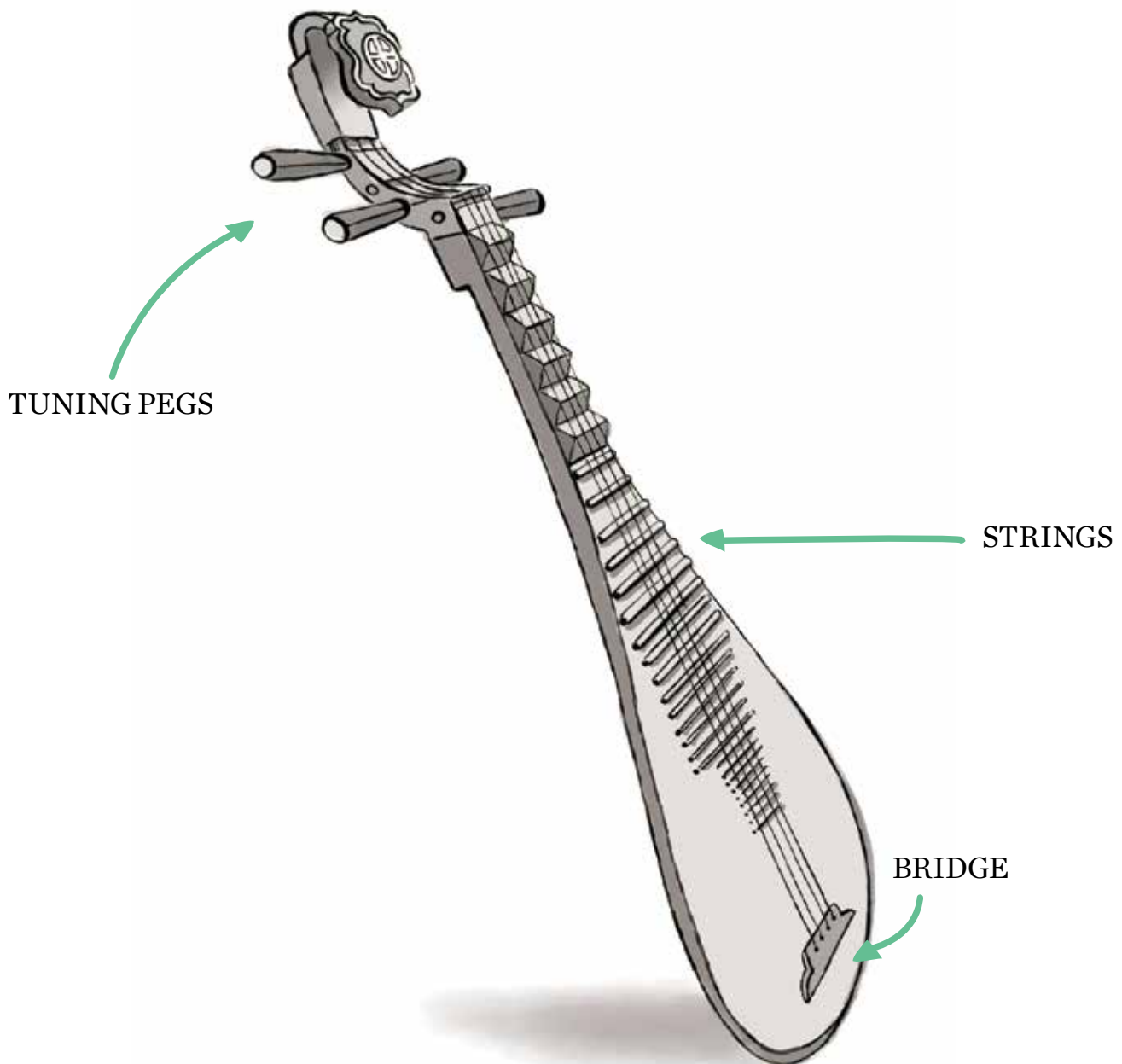
音乐



Arriving at  
Chinatown, Manhattan





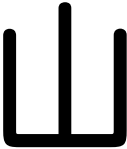
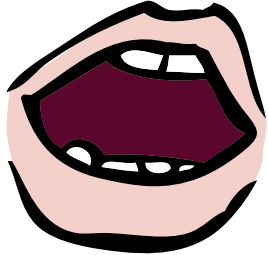
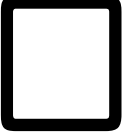


## Explore the Pipa

The pipa is one of the most popular traditional Chinese instruments. It has been played in China for almost 2,000 years! Sometimes called the Chinese lute, it has a pear-shaped wooden body and four strings. The strings used to be made of soft silk and plucked with the fingernails; today, the strings are steel, so pipa players attach fake fingernails to their fingertips. Pipa players also make percussive sounds by striking the instrument's body, or twisting its strings to make a cymbal-like sound.



## Explore Chinese Characters

The Chinese written language uses characters for each word instead of letters. If you look carefully the characters are like simple drawings of the words. Trace the first character, and try drawing the others on your own.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|    | <p><b>Niao</b></p>  <p>bird</p>      |  |
|  | <p><b>Shan</b></p>  <p>mountain</p> |   |
|  | <p><b>Kou</b></p>  <p>mouth</p>    |   |
|  | <p><b>Chang</b></p>  <p>sing</p>   |   |

## Meet Alsarah!



Ahlan, Musical Explorers!

I was born in a city called Khartoum, which is in an African country called Sudan. My family had to leave Sudan when I was eight because of serious troubles there. We came to the US when I was 12, and now I live in Crown Heights with people from all over the world. I love the songs that I learned in my country—songs of celebration that were written and sung by women and taught to me as a little girl. I'm so excited to share these songs with you! And I'm especially excited that I get to perform with my sister, Nahid!

Wa shokran,

Alsarah



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



Leaving from  
**Chinatown, Manhattan**



## We asked Alsarah ...

### What did you eat for breakfast growing up in Khartoum?

Like most people in my country, I ate foul (fava beans) for breakfast every day. Sometimes I ate eggs, too.

### What was your favorite Sudanese tradition?

The bridal dance! In Sudan, weddings are a big deal and the entire neighborhood gets involved. As part of the wedding, the bride performs songs and dances that she creates and practices for months. It is the job of all her little cousins to help her practice and sing along; that's where I learned some of the songs I now sing.

### Is there a special kind of traditional dress in Sudan?

In my part of the Sudan, women traditionally wear a toub, which is basically a kind of large scarf wrapped around the body over your dress, and the men wear a long, white tunic called a jalabiya.



Here's how you write the word *music* in Arabic. Try writing it yourself by tracing over the lines.

موسيقى



## Compose with Body Percussion

You can create a body percussion composition to perform with a partner, just like Alsarah and Nahid. Circle TWO body percussion sounds below that you want to use.



Clap

Clap two hands  
with your  
partner's  
two hands

Stomp



Tap your thigh



What else?

Your composition is eight beats long, from 1 to 8. Where do you want to put your two sounds? If you want silence, you can leave a space blank.

For example:

| 1    | 2    | 3     | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7     | 8 |
|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|---|
| clap | clap | stomp | clap | clap | clap | stomp |   |

Now it's your turn:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Your class can clap or count the steady beat while you and your partner perform your composition.

## Explore Nubia

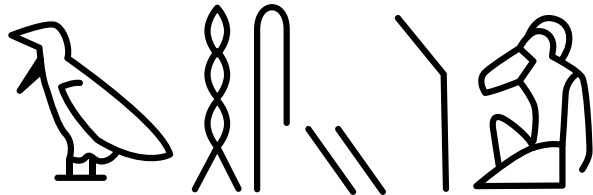
For thousands of years, some of the land that is now part of Sudan was in a civilization called Nubia. That's why AlSarah's band is called the Nubatones. Nubia stretched all along the Nile River from Sudan into Egypt. It was one of the oldest civilizations in northern Africa—more than 8,000 years old!



Here are Nubian pyramids.



Nubians were known to be excellent archers. These are ancient statues of Nubian archers with their bows and arrows.



These are Nubian hieroglyphs, an early form of writing based on pictures. What do you think they mean?

Create your own hieroglyphs that say “musical explorer” in the box below.

## Welcome to Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall



Hi! I'm Sid, and I'm thrilled to be your host for Musical Explorers! Getting to spend time at Carnegie Hall is my favorite part of the year, and I can't wait to hear lots of great music from all over New York City and the world with you. I hope you're all ready to be Musical Explorers. See you soon!

**Meet Sid!**

**Meet the  
ushers!**



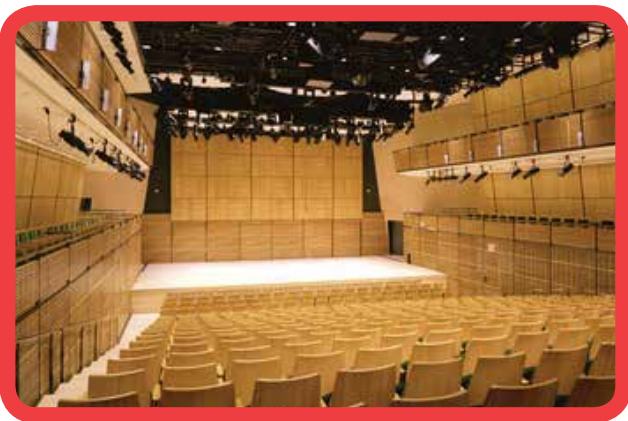


This is Carnegie Hall.

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 at Carnegie Hall?

Draw pictures of your trip to Carnegie Hall 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 Etienne!

Greetings from

**EASTERN PARKWAY,  
BROOKLYN**



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



Leaving from  
**Crown Heights, Brooklyn**



## 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.

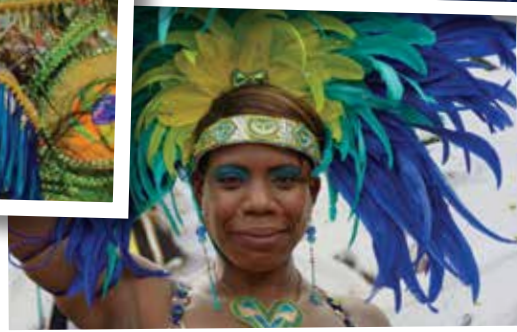
### What is your favorite food from Trinidad?

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.

Jab Molassie

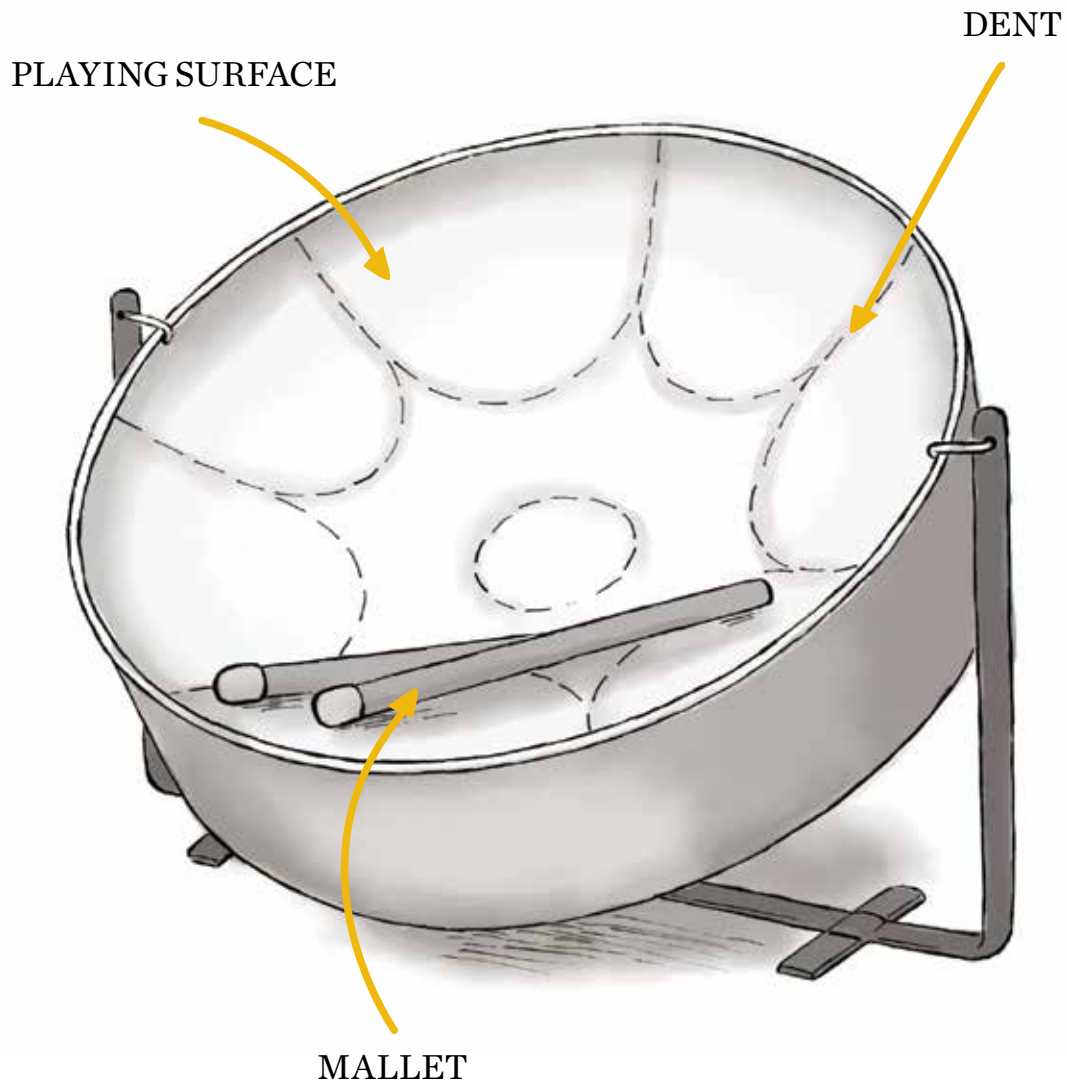


Arriving at  
Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn



## 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

made

long

pants

sun

pan

dance

song

can

fun

parade

thing

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Meet Zulal!



Parev, Musical Explorers!

Our names are Teni, Yeraz, and Anais, and together we make up the vocal trio Zulal. We are all Armenian, but like many Armenians our families haven't lived in Armenia for two generations: Our parents were born in Iraq, Kenya, Palestine, and Egypt, and we three were born here in the US. We connect to our Armenian heritage through the songs that we sing. We're so excited that you'll be learning the songs we love, and can't wait to sing with you at Carnegie Hall!

Ts'dsootyoon,

Teni, Yeraz, and  
Anais, (Zulal)



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



Leaving from  
Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn



## We asked Zulal ...

### What is your favorite Armenian food?

There is so much delicious Armenian food! Yeraz loves mante, which are boat-shaped dumplings cooked in tomato-chicken broth and topped with yogurt and mint. Anaís loves boreg—buttery pastry triangles filled with cheese. Teni loves vospov kufte, which are lentil patties.

### Do you have a favorite Armenian holiday?

Our favorite holiday is definitely Hampartsoum, when a wonderful fortune-telling ritual called the vijag is performed. It is believed that on that day the seams of the universe loosen so the future can be told. There are many vijag songs that we love to sing!

### Did you have a favorite Armenian story growing up?

We all love the story of the talking fish! It is the story of a poor fisherman who saves a fish by throwing it back into the water, and how the fish rewards the fisherman. Ask your teacher to tell you the whole story!



Here's how you write the word *music* in Armenian. Try writing it yourself by tracing over the lines.

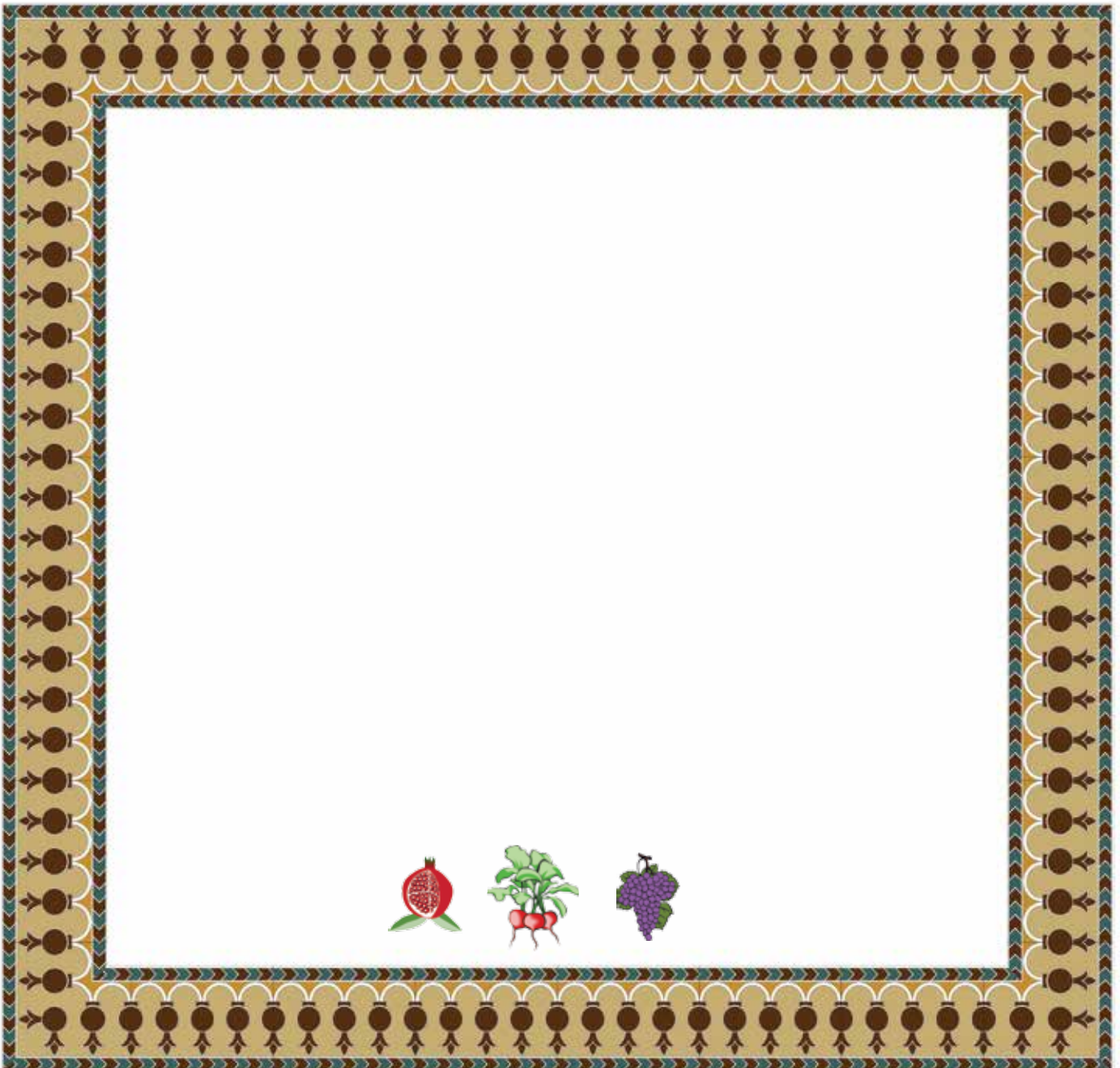
Երաժշտություն



Arriving at  
Little Armenia, Manhattan

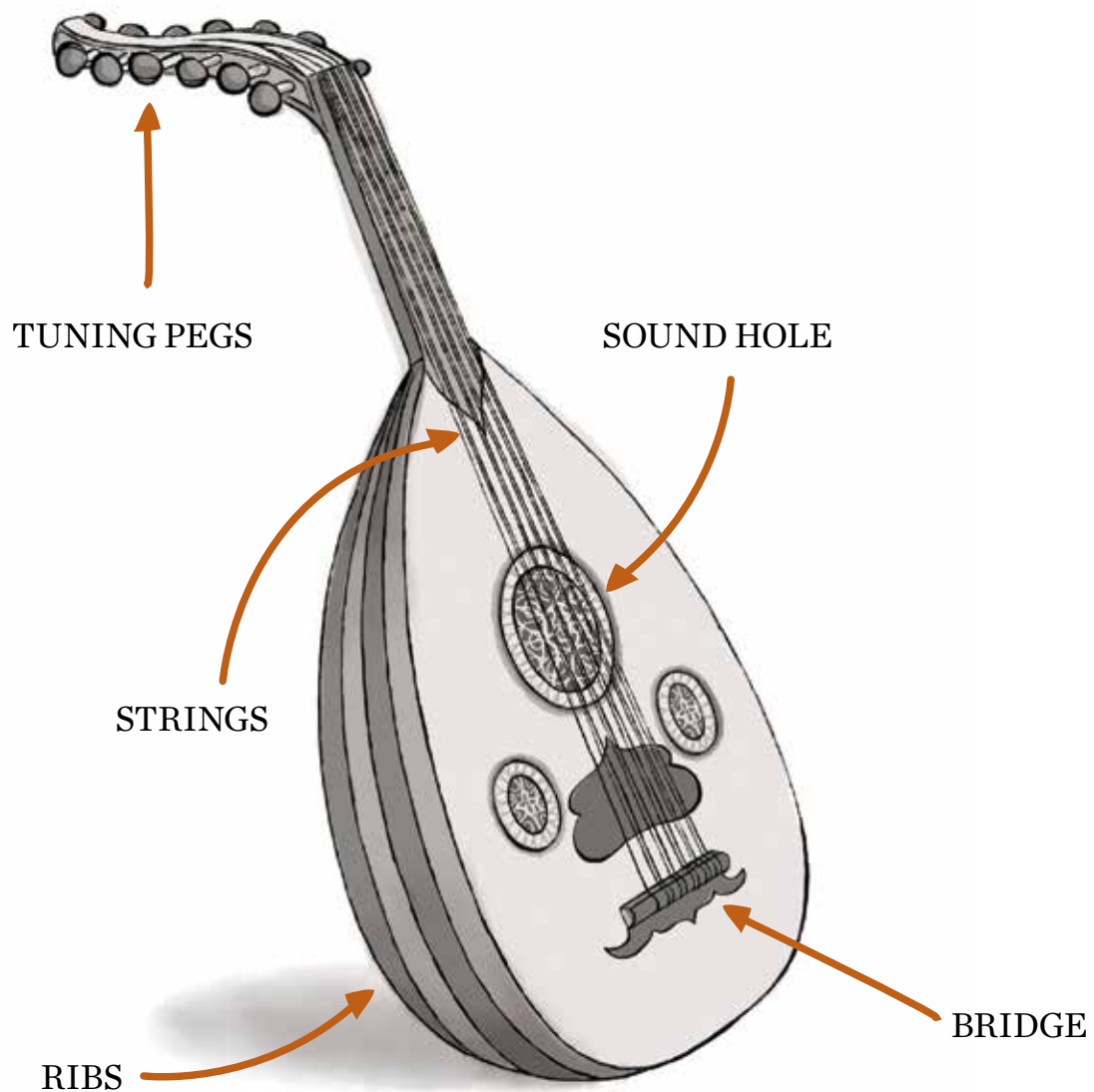
## The Myth of Tammooz

The Assyrians believed there was a god who had the power to make sure that the crops they planted grew strong, and there would be plenty of food to eat. They called that god Tammooz. Draw a picture of how you imagine Tammooz would look.



## Explore the Oud

The oud is a pear-shaped string instrument with a rounded back and a short neck. While the oud looks like a big gourd, its body is actually made out of many wooden strips—in fact, its name in Arabic means “thin strips of wood”! Ten of the strings are paired together—pairs of strings play the same note—with one low string on its own.



## Meet Circa '95!



Hi Musical Explorers!

Our names are Reph and Patty, and we perform a style of music that is known all over the world: HIP-HOP! We bet you already know some hip-hop songs, but did you know that hip-hop (like us) was born in New York City? Have you ever seen hip-hop dancers and musicians in your neighborhood or on the subway? We write and perform our own songs about life in the city and some of them are in Spanish and English.

We can't wait to have a good time and rhyme with you at Carnegie Hall!

See you soon!

Reph and Patty (Circa '95)

Musical Explorers

c/o Carnegie Hall

881 Seventh Avenue

New York, NY 10019

Leaving from  
Little Armenia, Manhattan



## We asked Circa '95 ...

### What were your first memories of hip-hop as a child?

**Patty:** One of my first memories is hearing hip-hop music on the radio. I would use a hairbrush like a microphone and sing along in front of the mirror, pretending I was on stage.

**Reph:** As a child, I remember b-boys and b-girls (hip-hop dancers) dancing in the park. Their music and their dance moves were exciting!

### What do you love most about hip-hop?

**Patty:** I love that anyone and everyone can participate! Hip-hop celebrates your individuality and creates spaces for you to express yourself.

**Reph:** I love that hip-hop is bigger than just a type of music or dance. It's a culture. It's a way of life.

### What is the first step to writing a hip-hop song?

**Patty:** Think of a theme you would like to write about. Write words that inspire and motivate you. The words can repeat and rhyme. Before you know it, you have a story to tell—and a beautiful song!

### How do you know when you have a good message?

**Reph:** When your music is true to who you are and you bring joy to the people who hear it.



Arriving at  
South Bronx

# Four Elements of Hip-Hop

B-Boying / B-Girling



MCing



Graffiti



DJing



## Learn to Beatbox

You can create your own rhythm track using just your mouth to imitate different percussion instruments.

When you say “**BOOTS**”



it sounds like a bass drum



When you say “**CATS**”

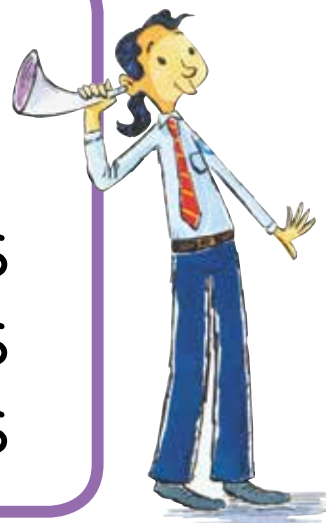


it sounds like a snare drum



Ready to BEATBOX?

**BOOTS** and **CATS**  
and **BOOTS** and **CATS**  
and **BOOTS** and **CATS**  
and **BOOTS** and **CATS**



What other sounds can you make with your mouth to add to your beatboxing rhythm?

## Create Your Own Mural

Graffiti artists paint murals and other street art with messages that they feel are important for their communities to know. Create your own mural with a message that is important to you and your class.



# It's Concert Time!

Circle things you WILL do at Carnegie Hall. Put an "X" through things you WON'T do at Carnegie Hall.

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

Sleep



Dance



Have fun!

Run



Get bored

Talk during the music

Open your ears

Move

Follow directions

Cheer!

Laugh

Sing!



Listen to the performers



Watch how the musicians play and sing

Eat popcorn



Clap

## What Did You See and Hear at Carnegie Hall?

Draw pictures of your trip to Carnegie Hall 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,



# Additional Information

## Glossary

**banjo:** a string instrument originally from West Africa used in American folk music, including bluegrass

**beatboxing:** a form of vocal percussion in which you imitate the sound of percussion instruments using just your mouth

**bluegrass:** a style of American roots music played on acoustic string instruments

**body percussion:** the use of the human body to create percussive sounds

**break:** the part of a bluegrass song when the instrumentalists play while the singer takes a break

**call and response:** a musical form in which one person sings a musical phrase (call), and the group responds (response) with either an echo or another complementary phrase

**calypso:** a form of music from Trinidad and Tobago that combines West African and French influences

**Carnival:** a festival held before Lent that includes music and dancing

**chipping:** a form of calypso dance

**chord:** two or more notes sounded together

**chorus:** a musical section in a song with the same lyrics and melody that repeats after each verse

**cypher:** a circle of people taking turns rapping verses, often improvising

**DJ:** in hip-hop, the musician who makes the beats using turntables and digital equipment

**emotions:** feelings

**engine room:** a group of non-pitched percussion instruments that form the rhythm section of a steel band

**explorer:** a person who uses his or her senses to learn about something

**fiddle:** the name used by bluegrass musicians for the violin

**gesture:** a movement we make with our faces or bodies to express something without talking

**harmony:** the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes

**hook:** in hip-hop, a repeated phrase that returns like a chorus

**jump-up:** the communal celebratory dance during the Carnival parade

**limbo:** a popular dance contest from Trinidad, in which contestants shimmy under a limbo bar

**lyrics:** the words in a song

**mandolin:** a plucked string instrument in the lute family used in bluegrass

**MC:** the vocalist in hip-hop music who raps the lyrics over the beat

**measure:** a segment of music defined by a set number of beats

**medley:** a musical arrangement that combines two or more songs

**melodic contour:** the direction of the melody

**melodic phrase:** a short musical segment within a larger melody that has a specific contour and duration

**melody:** the main tune of a piece of music

**meter:** the number of beats in a measure

**message:** in hip-hop, something that the musician wants to express

**mood:** emotional feeling

**opera:** a dramatic work set to music

**opposites:** things that are very different from each other

**ostinato:** a repeated musical pattern

**oud:** a pear-shaped string instrument with Arabic roots, related to the lute

**pantomime:** acting something out without speaking

**pentatonic scale:** a scale made up of five notes

**pipa:** a traditional Chinese instrument with four strings, sometimes called the Chinese lute

**refrain:** the line or lines that are repeated in music

**rap:** spoken or chanted rhyming lyrics to a beat

**rhyme:** two words that have the same last sound

**rhythmic layering:** layering repeated rhythms on top of each other to create a more complex polyrhythm

**scale:** a pattern of musical notes

**skip:** melodic movement that skips notes in the scale as it ascends or descends

**solfège:** the use of sol-fa syllables to name each note in a musical scale

**steady beat:** the pulse in music

**steel band:** a musical group that brings together steel pans of different sizes with an engine room of non-pitched percussion

**steel pan:** an instrument used in steel bands made from oil drums

**step:** melodic movement that ascends or descends using consecutive notes in a scale

**strong beat:** a beat that is emphasized or accented

**top rock:** a hip-hop dance step

**unison:** singing or playing together

**verse:** a musical section in a song where the melody stays the same but the lyrics change

**waltz:** a dance step in triple meter, with a strong-weak-weak pattern

**weak beat:** a beat that is not emphasized or accented

# Acknowledgments

## Photos

Artist photos: Michael Daves childhood photo courtesy of artist, publicity photo by Wendy George; Qian Yi childhood photo courtesy of artist, publicity photo by Ken Anderson; Alsarah's childhood photo and Nahid Abunama-Elgadi childhood photo courtesy of artist, publicity photo by Nousha Salimi; Etienne Charles publicity photo by Laura Ferreira; Zulal childhood photos courtesy of artists, publicity photo by Kathi Littwin; Circa '95 childhood photo courtesy of artist, publicity photo by Shirley Rodriguez. SG3 (clockwise from top left): Stephanie Berger, Nan Palmero, Stephanie Berger. SG8: Park Slope, Brooklyn photo by Wally Gobetz; quilt photo by Tamar Horton Harris North. SG9: Birth of Bluegrass photo by Corkythehornetfan; banjo photo by Brian Stansberry. Page 27 (top to bottom): oldcrowgirl, bunky's pickle. SG10 (left to right): Wayne Rogers, Cornergraf, arent, Martin Moller, Pree. SG12: Chinatown, Manhattan photo by Thomas Hawk. SG13: Paper dragon photo by 蔡滄龍; paper lamp photo by cisc1970. SG16: Crown Heights, Brooklyn photo by Beyond My Ken. SG17: Toub photo by UNAMID; jalabiya photo by David Stanley. SG19 (left to right): Mak Khogaly, kairoinfo4u. SG20: Sid's photo by Xanthe Elbrick. SG21 (top to bottom): Jeff Goldberg/Esto, Google Maps, Jeff Goldberg/Esto. SG24: Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn photo by Nick Normal; Trinidad photo by Dieter Mueller. SG25 (Carnival photos left to right): Idobi, cisc1970, George Popplewell. Page 65: Steel band photo by Tony Hisgett. Page 68: Carnival photo by Mister Jo. SG28: Armenian Record Center photo by Ara Dinkjian; mante photo by Amber Leach; childhood photos courtesy of Zulal. SG29 (left to right): Armenia landscape by Bo Stern; Armenian flags by Flickr user Young Shanahan. Page 78: Tamzara dance photos by Kevork Mourad. SG32: South Bronx photo by AquaLungBX, Circa '95 photo by Shirley Rodriguez. SG33: B-Boy photo by Bob Jagendorf. SG34 (clockwise from top): Wen-Cheng Liu, Thomas Hawk, Mika-photography, Casa For a do Eixo Minas. SG36: Jeffrey Zeldman.

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to Jacqueline Stahlmann, Hayk Arsenyan, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), and Sarah Cullen.



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