Other Orchestral Pieces that Rock

Focal Works:

“Mars” from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst

Entr’acte from *The Nose* by Dmitri Shostakovich

“Stars and Stripes Forever” by John Philip Sousa

AIM: How does the orchestra rock with climaxes, dynamics, marching, and percussion?

MATERIALS: LinkUP! student guide; LinkUP! CD; CD player; pencils; chart paper

STANDARDS: US 6, 8, 9; NYC 2, 3, 4, 5

SUMMARY: Students explore three other pieces that will be performed at the LinkUP! concert by engaging in active listening and inquiry.

VOCABULARY:

- **Climax**: a high point in the music, often loud and very emotional
- **Dynamics**: a musical term for volume (loud and quiet)

In addition to the repertoire covered in the previous units, there will be three more pieces performed at the LinkUP! concert:

- “Mars” from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst
- Entr’acte from *The Nose* by Dmitri Shostakovich
- “Stars and Stripes Forever” by John Philip Sousa

See Appendix B on page 86 for composer information.

Each of these exciting pieces sets up the orchestra to rock with elements of beat, rhythm, and groove. Engage your students in active listening through discussion, reflection, and the following Listening Challenges.

**Listening Challenge: Gustav Holst’s “Mars” from *The Planets***

Track 35

Ask students:

- How does Holst make musical climaxes in “Mars”?
- How does Holst use ostinato in “Mars”?
- How does Holst musically create elements of war (conflict, danger, battle, chaos, and heroism) in “Mars”?
- How does Holst use brass and percussion in this piece? What effect do these instruments create?
- How are dynamics used in this piece?
- How does the orchestra rock in “Mars”?

CARNEGIE HALL
Listening Challenge: Dmitri Shostakovich’s Entr’acte from *The Nose*

Ask students:
- *How does Shostakovich create musical surprise in his music from The Nose?*
- *Can you hear individual sounds? How does Shostakovich create layers of percussion? Do they all have the same speed?*
- *How does Shostakovich create a variety of sounds while only using the percussion family?*
- *If you had to make a story arc for this piece, what would it be?*
- *How does the percussion family rock in this piece?*

Listening Challenge: John Philip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever”

Ask students:
- *When and why do people march? What kind of beat do they need for marching?*
- *How does the march make you want to move? Where in your body do you feel the beat?*
- *How does the orchestra rock in this march?*
- *How do the rhythms change in the different sections of the march?*
- *“Stars and Stripes Forever” is America’s national march. What sounds American about this music?*