



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Activities – Activity #1, Overture to William Tell

- William Tell is an opera written by the composer Gioachino Rossini. This famous piece is based upon the legend of William Tell and has been used in cartoons, movies, and even commercials! Listen to the Overture to William Tell and see if you recognize it! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIbYCOiETx0>
- Read the Legend of William Tell. This was Rossini's inspiration for writing the opera!

THE LEGEND OF WILLIAM TELL

William Tell is a Swiss folk hero. As the legend goes, William Tell was known as a mighty man who was an expert with the crossbow. After refusing to pay homage to the Austrian emperor, Tell was arrested and the emperor deemed that William and his son Walter be executed. However, the emperor would let them go free if William was able to shoot an apple off the head of his son! Walter nervously stood against a tree and an apple was placed upon his head. William successfully shot the apple from 50 steps away in front of a crowd of onlookers!

William Tell and his never ending fight for liberty helped start the rebellion against the emperor and other tyrants as well.



Activity #1, Overture to William Tell



Listen to the musical excerpt again and answer the following questions.

1. Do you recognize the overture to William Tell?

2. What image(s) do you visualize when listening to this music?

3. How does the music help convey this image? Describe the tempo, dynamics, timbre, and style. Does it fit the "heroic" theme of William Tell? Why or why not?

4. Many people feel that this music represents a race, horses galloping, or depicts a hero riding to the rescue. Do you agree? Why or why not?

5. Although there are no horses in the Rossini opera, this music was used as the theme song for "The Lone Ranger" as he rode his galloping horse! It has however, been used in commercials and even cartoons! Where else have you heard this piece? Explain.





STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Activities – Activity #2, Overture to William Tell (Melody)

- Rossini uses many melodies in his Overture to William Tell.
- Look at the 3 melodies used by Rossini on the right and answer the following questions



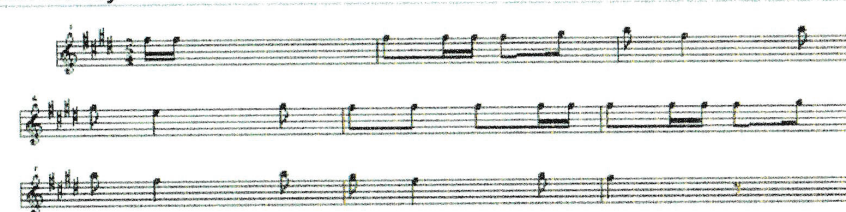
Melody 1



Melody 2



Transition Melody



Activity #2, Overture to William Tell (Melody)



1. What is melody?

2. To refresh, listen to the Overture to William Tell excerpt again. Can you hear all 3 melodies?

3. Compare/contrast. What makes each melody different? What makes the melodies similar?

4. Trace melodies along each note head to determine their melodic direction. Determine the shape of each melody. Does it mainly travel upwards, downwards, up and down, or use repeating pitches?

