



TEACHER GUIDE

Teacher Guide - Activity #1, Overture to William Tell

Instructions:

- For activity #1, have students listen to the Overture to William Tell and ask if they recognize this famous piece!
- Read the Legend of William Tell. This will help students understand Rossini's inspiration for writing the opera.
- Listen to the musical excerpt again and answer the questions provided. (Student answers will vary) You can mention that this piece has been used in cartoons such as Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny!







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Teacher Guide – Activity #2, Overture to William Tell (Melody)

Instructions:

- For activity #2, students will review the 3 musical melodies used by Rossini.
- Have students write down their answer to "What is melody?"
 - Melody is a succession of musical tones that the listener perceives as a whole. It is a pleasing combination of pitch and rhythm.
 - Encourage students to think of familiar melodies that they may know...Yankee Doodle, Happy Birthday, God Bless America, etc.
- Listen to the excerpt once more and have students follow along. Can they identify all 3 melodies? Have students compare and contrast each melody.
- Lastly, students will trace each melody along each note head to determine the melodic direction and answer the questions provided.



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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.



