

A Great Work of Art



Equally Great?



Also pretty cool.



What Is Great Music?



Think **aesthetics**
rather than only what can you
teach with the piece.

Characteristics of Quality Music

- ✦ Something Different
- ✦ Unpredictability
- ✦ Form/Design
- ✦ Depth
- ✦ Consistent Quality and Style
- ✦ Good Orchestration/Voicing
- ✦ Good Text/Use of Text
- ✦ Stands the Test of Time

A Closer Look At...



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Stars

Based on the piece "Stars" by John A. Howard
Additional Words by Mary Dorothy and George L.D. Stiel
Music by Mary Dorothy and George L.D. Stiel

JACOB'S THEME

Composed by HOWARD HENNING
Arranged by ANTHONY J. MONTANO

Pop Specials for Strings

2 There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

Numbers 24:17

Christmas Anthem for Mixed Voices, Accompanied
(S. A. T. B.)

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Felix Mendelssohn, known as a romantic classicist, ranks among the greatest of choral composers. He is one of the few whose works were acclaimed during his own life time. This anthem moves along in a smooth contrapuntal style and closes with a chorale melody written by Philipp Nicolai.

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The lyrics are: "There shall a star come out of Jacob." The score includes a piano accompaniment with a prominent eighth-note pattern in the right hand.

Music Quality Varies!

Characteristics of Quality Music

- ✦ Something Different
- ✦ Unpredictability
- ✦ Form/Design
- ✦ Depth
- ✦ Consistent Quality and Style
- ✦ Good Orchestration/Voicing
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- ✦ Stands the Test of Time

Examine “There Shall A Star From Jacob”.

Pair with a partner, select one of these qualities and decide if the song is worthy to be called great art.



PAR AVION



PAR AVION

This Is Not Easy!

Like anything worth doing, it takes
practice and diligence.

So Why Do We Settle For Less Than Great Music?

- ✦ The kids love it.
 - ✦ They will quit.
 - ✦ Parents love it.
 - ✦ I don't have time...money...experience...
- ✦ “Every time a choice is made a belief is applied.” Bennett Reimer



Take Heed!

Don't settle for music that is "just good enough". It may be published, it may be popular, but is it truly great art?

LU STESSO TEMPO
arco
p dolce

101
103 cresc. dim. p
105
107
109 cresc.
111 cresc.

PAR AVION

PAR AVION

Ode to Joy

L. Van Beethoven

www.abcnotation.com/tunes

Does that mean all the music has to be really difficult?

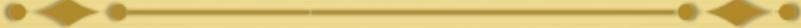
Great Music Exists at ALL Levels!



So That Means No Pop Music, Right?

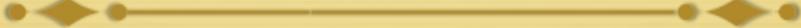
There is great music in all genres.

Director or Music Educator?



- ✦ What does this mean?
 - ✦ Consider teaching music that may not be performed in a concert.
 - ✦ Consider teaching music that may not be in our wheelhouse.
 - ✦ Consider a balanced diet of repertoire.
- ✦ **“What would I teach if I didn’t have concerts?”**

Questions to Ponder...



- ✦ Will the music you teach stand the test of time?
- ✦ Is the music rich enough to keep you and your students interested for a semester, a year, a lifetime?
- ✦ If this is the only piece that your students will ever experience, is it the best representation of that genre, composer, style, etc.?

You Are Not Alone...



- ✦ This week, use those around you as a resource to get better at determining if the music is truly a work of art!



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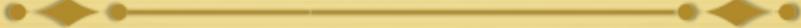


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Review



- ✦ The Music we select is our “textbook”, therefore the music must be rich and of the highest quality.
- ✦ Determining the aesthetic quality of the music takes practice and study. This takes a lot of time but it is worth it!

