

# Folk Tune Research Project

## **Part I: Individual work (Due by February 26)**

Pick a folk tune from a list approved by Mr. White, learn to play the melody on your instrument, and then create a visual representation to answer the following questions as they relate to your assigned tune:

- Define “folk tune.”
- What is the place (city, region, etc.) of origin for your tune? (There might be more than one listed!)
- What time period/era does it originally come from? And when was it most popular?
- Is there a known composer of the music? If so, give a brief biography. If not, find a writer of the lyrics and give a brief biography. (At least four complete sentences)
- What is it about? (Expand as thoroughly as possible!)
- Is this tune important culturally/historically? How so?
- Does it inform our current culture? How so or why not?
- Are there variations of the tune, lyrically or melodically? Has this tune been used in more modern music (20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century)?

You will perform and present the information about the tune on Flipgrid! You can use PowerPoint, Sway, or any other visual medium to complete your presentation.

## **Part II: Arrange for a Duet, Trio, Quartet, or Quintet (Small-Ensemble) (Due by April 9)**

Imagine your ideal small ensemble instrumentation (what instruments do you want to play with? How many performers in the ensemble?), transpose your folk tune melody for each instrument.

## **Part III: Composition (Due by April 30)**

How does your tune make you feel? Write a short paragraph describing elements of the melody (intervals, mode, rhythm, etc.) that create that feeling.

Use the feeling/emotions created by the each tune to determine how you will write unique parts for each instrument in your ensemble (harmony, counter-melody, etc.) for your folk tune. Compose your final tune with two (2) different parts or more for up to four (4) performers. Remember, instrumentation can be a fun element to play with! Find classmates to perform the other parts or do it yourself (Flipgrid).

## **Part IV: Performance (April - May 21)**

First, you will make one of these two choices:

1. Perform all parts on your own to a metronome to be put together either by Mr. White or you (you can also use fun phone apps like “Acapella”)
2. Recruit your classmates to learn your music and play it with you! (You *may* ask Mr. White to record a part if you’d like... he may be available, but he can’t play for everyone so ask early!)

OR

These will need to be uploaded to the appropriate Flipgrid for credit. (Mr. White will help with details of course!)

Finally, each group will present their pieces and recordings for the class and the best ones will be showcased at the Spring Concert! Looking forward to hearing your creations! Enjoy!

**TL;DR:** You will learn to play, research, and arrange a folk tune individually for your instrument answering as many of the questions above as possible. You will compose parts for your folk tunes (either as a Duet, Trio, or Quartet). And you will perform folk tune as a part of the Spring Concert.

**Folk tune resource website:**

<https://www.bethsnotesplus.com/>