

A photograph of a rustic wooden structure, possibly a corral or a simple building, constructed from weathered logs and branches. The structure is set in a dry, hilly landscape with sparse vegetation. The sky is overcast. The text is overlaid on the image.

Music Virtual Learning
Music Appreciation

May 22, 2020

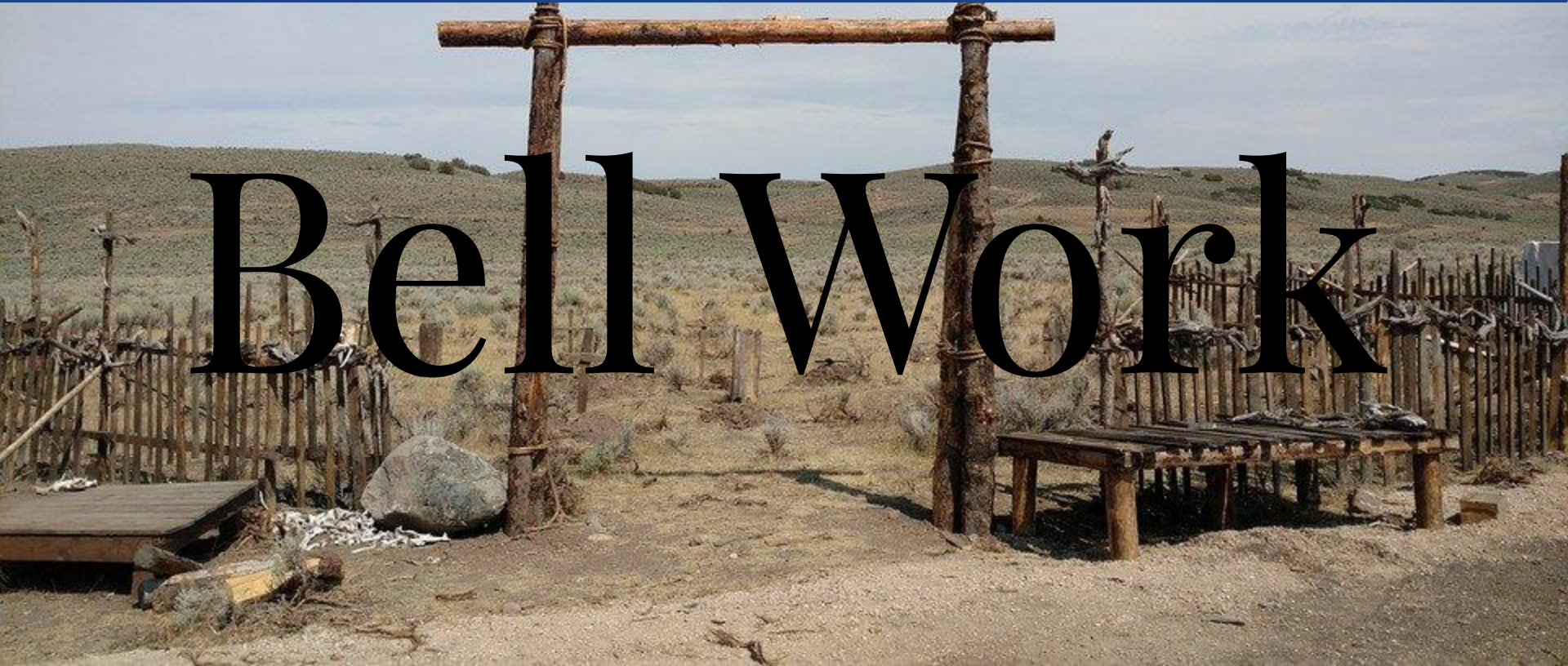
Music Appreciation

Lesson: May 22, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will learn about the history of Western Films and their music composers.

Bellwork



Watch this Silverado Trailer



After watching the trailer....

1. What did you notice?
2. How was the music?
3. Have you seen a Western movie before?

A photograph of a rustic wooden structure, possibly a corral or a simple building, constructed from weathered logs and branches. The structure is set in a dry, hilly landscape under a cloudy sky. The ground is sandy and rocky, with sparse vegetation. The overall scene has a Western, frontier feel.

Lesson: Western Movie Music

- Genre began in New Jersey and New York with the filming of Edwin S. Porter's "Great Train Robbery" in 1903.
 - 10-minute, one-reel film with a gunfight, sequential plot, multiple locations that set the standard for both the western and narrative filmmaking.
 - Watch Grain Train Robbery here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuto7qWrplc>
- Popular and uniquely american genre of film until about 1960.
- Appealing for their outdoor shots, open-air stages, gunfighters, saloons, horse chases, cattle, and lawmen.

Six Types of Westerns

1. Silent-Era Westerns
2. B-movie Westerns
3. Classic Westerns
4. Noir Westerns
5. Spaghetti Westerns
6. Revisionist Westerns

Four Characteristics of Western Movie Music

- Based on pentatonic scale
- Syncopation (esp. in accompaniment)
- Describes wide open spaces
- Heroic characters

Spaghetti Westerns

- Italian made westerns
- Primary composer was Ennio Moricone →
- 4 characteristics
 - Italian films
 - Mostly Italian actors
 - A few American actors
 - Lots of overdubbing dialogue



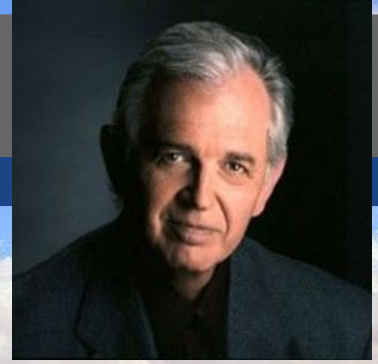
- **Clint Eastwood** made several early spaghetti westerns
 - American Actor, filmmaker, musician, and politician
 - A Fist Full of Dollars
 - For a Few Dollars More
 - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
 - “the man with no name” trilogy



Silverado

- Directed by Lawrence Kasden
- Tribute to classic western epics
- Music by Bruce Broughton
- Features ensemble cast
- Several big named actors
- Not one main star
 - Kevin Kline, Scott Glen, Danny Glover, Kevin Costner, Jeff Goldblum, Linda Hunt, Brian Dennehy, John Cleese (etc.)





Bruce Broughton

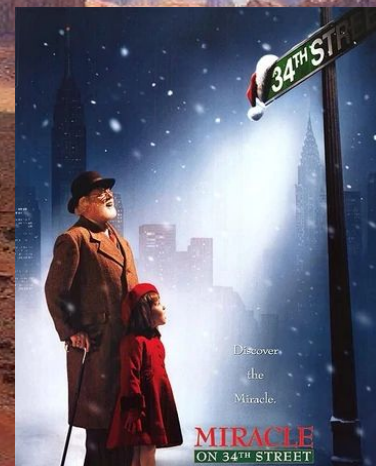
- Born in Los Angeles in 1945
- Traveled around; parents were Salvation Army officers
- Music influence in his life
- Eventually chose a career as a composer; film composer
- Started career with CBS Television
- Has won 10 Emmys
- Scored Silverado in 1991
 - Oscar nomination for best score
- Contained the “best western music” since the 1958 film, The Big Country
 - Broughton nominated for best film score

Listen to it



Other Broughton Films

- Tombstone (1993)
 - Another from Broughton
 - Wyatt Earp, Doc Holiday
 - Temp track used music from Silverado
- Harry and the Hendersons
 - Sweet natured forest monster with a suburban family
- Miracle on 34th Street
 - Remake of a Christmas classic



Elmer Bernstein



- Born 1922–died 2004
- 50+ years as a composer; over 200 movies
- 14 time Oscar nominee; plus many other awards and recognitions
- Not related to the famous conductor of the New York Philharmonic, Leonard Bernstein
 - Often thought to be
 - Looked somewhat alike
 - Good friends
- Had nicknames within music world
 - Leonard – Bernstein East
 - Elmer – Bernstein West
- After composed *The Magnificent Seven*

Elmer Bernstein continued...

- Gray-listed” in McCarthy era –(1950’s)
 - HCUA (House Committee on UnAmerican Activities)
 - He was sympathetic to left wing causes
 - Accused as communist; happened often within the entertainment field
- During this time forced to work on low-budget sci-fi movies
 - Robot Monster
 - Cat Women of the Moon
- Did a wide variety of other films as well.

Listen to the
*Magnificent
Seven* Theme

Bernstein Westerns

- Magnificent Seven
 - Theme very recognizable
 - “defined the sound of the western.”
 - “Marlboro Man”
 - Based on older Japanese film, *The Seven Samurai*
- Did some John Wayne Westerns
 - Scored several John Wayne westerns
 - Includes:
 - Sons of Katie Elder (1965)
 - True Grit (1969)
 - The Shootist (Wayne’s last film) (1976)



Review



**Listen to the following
soundtrack:**

1. What type of scenery/story do you imagine when you listen to this soundtrack?
2. What emotions are portrayed?



Additional Resources





<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/10/magazine/11schatz.html>

<https://www.amc.com/talk/2011/12/movie-history-quick-guide-to-westerns>

