

Kate Landis

Wind Symphony

An American in Paris

Goal

- Students will become more comfortable with the technical and musical aspects of “An American in Paris”
- Students will analyze the different sections of “An American in Paris” and play the sections according to their analysis
- Students will understand modes and their importance

Assessment of Goal

- Audio assessment of modes and rhythms in warm up
- Audio assessment of sections of the piece
- Verbal assessment of the differences in the sections of the piece and how to portray that on each instrument

Lesson Plan

Warm-up

1. Students will play an A flat Major scale using sixteenth note/ eighth note rhythms on the board
2. Students will play the same scale starting on the second and third notes on the scale.
 - a. What are these different scales called? (Modes)
3. Write a C Major scale on the board and explain the modes and how they function in a scale
4. Play an A flat scale with the fourth sharpened
 - a. Which mode is this? (Lydian)
5. Tune

Lesson

1. Take out “An American in Paris”
2. Listen to original orchestra transcription
 - a. Why did Gershwin write this piece of music?
 - i. To portray his trip to Paris
 - b. What is Gershwin trying to portray by the instruments in the beginning section (Trumpets as horns, etc.)
3. Play beginning section without melody
4. Work on the timing of 3rd clarinet, tuba, alto saxophone parts
 - a. These parts are the foundation of the section
5. Listen to the melody
 - a. Talk about the placement of the grace note
6. Start at m. 117 in “An American in Paris” (no solo)
 - a. Listen for off/ on beats
 - b. Analyze the dynamic markings
 - i. Why are there so many crescendos/ decrescendos?
7. Work on the transitions between these two sections
 - a. How are they different? What is Gershwin going for?
8. Relate Bass trombone solo and Bass Clarinet solo at 70
9. Add in solo at 117
 - a. How should this solo be played? What is the feel?
10. Address rhythmic accuracy of the flute line at 124 (with snare)
11. Play from beginning until m. 150

Standards

1. PA Arts Standards: 9.1.12.A, 9.1.12.B, 9.1.12.C, 9.1.12.D, 9.1.12.F, 9.1.12.G, 9.2.12.A, 9.2.12.G, 9.4.12.A
2. National Standards: MU:Pr4.1.E.IIIa, MU:Pr4.2.E.IIIa, MU:Pr4.3.E.IIIa, MU:Pr5.3.E.IIIa, MU:Re7.2.E.IIIa, MU:Re8.1.E.IIIa, MU:Cn10.0.H.IIIa