

FEATURE

Listening Guide: Beyoncé's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)"

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 1 and 7

OBJECTIVES

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work (Cr1)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (Re7)

MATERIALS

- Music Alive! magazines (February 2017)
- Music Alive! Classroom Worksheets #5: Music Review Journal and #12: Staff Paper (download at musicalive.com)
- Notation software (optional)

START

 Have your students read "Listening Guide" on pages 18-19.

DEVELOP

- ▶ 1. Play "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" (Hear the Music track 8 on musicalive.com) a few times and have the students follow along with the timeline. Then have them complete the Music Review Journal worksheet.
- 2. Ask some supplemental questions:
- Can anyone say what vocal technique is happening at the beginning of the song? (Call and response: the lead vocal offers the call ["all the single ladies"] and it's answered with the same phrase by the other vocals.)
- Is it in a major or minor key? (Major—E major.)
- How many sharps or flats does E major have? (Four sharps: F#, C#, G#, and D#.)
- Do you hear a chord progression in the verse? (No-it's just one long E chord.)
- What about in the chorus? (Same as in the verse—just an E chord.)

- In the repeat of the chorus, what's the main interval you hear played by the full-bodied organ synthesizer?
 (Octaves.)
- In the second verse, on which beat do you tend to hear the background vocals adding a word? (On the "and" of beat 2.)
- What happens to the key signature in the bridge? (It modulates to the song's parallel minor key—E minor.)
- How many sharps or flats are in E minor? (One sharp: G#.)
- When the "single ladies" theme from the beginning of the song returns at 2:30, does the music stay in E minor or revert to the original key, E major? (It reverts to E major.)

CLOSE

Hand out copies of the staff paper worksheet (or have students set up a single bass-clef instrument using notation software). Have the students transcribe the octave-based synth line in the first two bars of the repeat of the chorus (0:50), which gives the melody a minor quality. Give them clues as needed, such as the key signature or the rhythms. Gather the worksheets or files and check them for accuracy.



ASSESS

- Did the students read the Listening Guide?
- Did they listen to the song?
- Did they answer the supplemental questions?
- Did they transcribe the synth line?

February 2017 QUIZ ANSWERS

This month's quizzes are available at musicalive.com/the-quiz-zone-february-2017. Here are the quiz answers:

ELECTRONICA ORIGINS

- 1. False
- 2. Soul and funk, disco, and hip-hop
- 3. Afrofuturism
- 4. Midwest
- 5. Robert Williams and
- Stacey Collins
- 6. "On and On"
- 7. From the name of a club called
- the Warehouse
- 8. Techno
- 9. The Electrifying Mojo
- 10. True

OFFBEAT NOTATION

- 1. Aurelian of Réôme
- 2. True
- 3. Tablature
- 4. Lead sheet
- 5. Projection 1
- 6. Magnetic tape
- 7. George Crumb
- 8. Stripsody
- 9. True
- 10. 0'00" and Pendulum Music

SONG OF THE MONTH

- 1. 27
- 2. Coming Home
- 3. Atlanta
- 4. Choreography
- 5. Sam Cooke and Otis Redding
- 6. Jazz and gospel
- 7. "Coming Home"
- 8. True
- 9. Concussion
- 10. False