



LISTENING GUIDE

“UPTOWN GIRL” BY BILLY JOEL

Meets National Core Arts Standards 5, 7, 9, and 11

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation (*Pr5*)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding (*Cn11*)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (Vol. 39, No.1)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Listening Guide” on pages 18-19.

DEVELOP

► **Play** “Uptown Girl” by Billy Joel (*Hear the Music* on *musicalive.com*) while having the students follow along with the timeline.

2. Ask students about the song

What instruments do you hear?

How would you characterize the quality of Joel’s vocals?

Do you like them?

How does this song make you feel?

Does this song remind you of any other song or artist?

Is this song slow or upbeat?

Which part of the song do you like better: verse or chorus? Why?

If you were to remix this song, what would you change?

What is this song about?

Do you think the message comes across clearly? Is it supported by the orchestration and pace of the song?

CLOSE

► **Play the music video for “Uptown Girl.” Has your interpretation of the song changed?**

What happens in the music video? Does it tell the story well?

ASSESS

Did the students follow along with the Listening Guide?

Did they listen to the song using the timeline?

Did they answer the supplemental questions?

QUIZ ANSWERS

This month’s quizzes are available at musicalive.com/the-quiz-zone-Oct-2019. Here are the quiz answers:

SINGING SERIES:

TAKING THE SPOTLIGHT

1. Whether you’re on key, dynamics, tone, and the character you play
2. You have to be louder and use a voice that cuts through the sound of the instruments when singing with a live band
3. A way of singing that utilizes short syllables, to make it sound like the character is speaking in a conversation
4. Whether your voice is resonating in your head or in your throat
5. So that everyone can hear you and the lyrics don’t blend together
6. Showers have hard, smooth surfaces that reflect the sound of your voice back to you
7. Because you are changing where your voice resonates inside your body
8. A successful theater performance requires good singing as well as good acting
9. Because your lungs are doing twice as much work
10. Kristin Chenoweth, Ben Platt, Carol Channing, Ethel Merman, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand

STRINGS

1. Four: strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion
2. Guitar (could be others)
3. Soprano
4. Fiddle
5. Tenor
6. The thickness/type of wood and the varnish
7. The speed at which a string vibrates to produce a specific pitch
8. A horizontal bar that sits on the neck of a string instrument
9. The string section
10. Bass

ALEC BENJAMIN

1. Narrator
2. Alessia Cara
3. “Water Fountain”
4. He felt awkward in front of the camera
5. Honesty and self-expression
6. John Mayer
7. Khalid and Jimin
8. Narrated for You
9. OCD
10. The kids of his generation that grew up the same way he did