SONG OF THE MONTH

"LET ME DOWN SLOWLY" BY ALEC BENJAMIN

Meets National Core Arts Standards 7-9

OBJECTIVES
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work (*Re8*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)

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

START
1. Ask students to read the text on pages 14-15 on their own
2. Have one of the students read aloud the text on page 16
3. ▶ **Play** Alec Benjamin's "Let Me Down Slowly" (*Hear the Music* on *musicalive.com*), while the students read through the notation on pages 16-17

DEVELOP
Ask students about the story:

What is most notable about Benjamin's songwriting style?
Why does he call himself a narrator? Do you think this is a fitting title for him?
He says he pays "exhaustive" attention to detail. When it comes to songwriting, do you think this helps or hurts him?
Do you relate to his song "Water Fountain"? How so?
What does he say is the most important thing when writing and performing music?
Do you prefer the solo version of "Let Me Down Slowly" or the duet with Alessia Cara? Why?

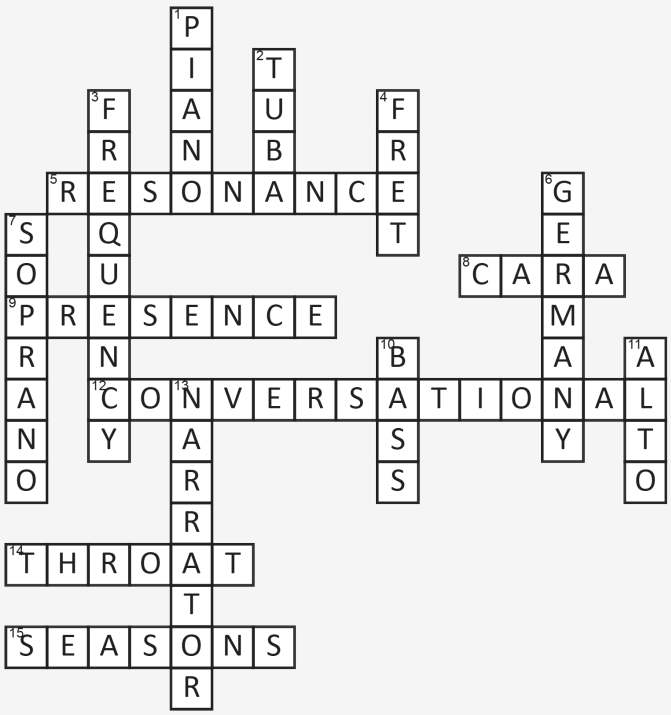
2. Ask students questions about the song/notation:

What is this song about?
How many measures long is the introduction?
How many sharps are there in the key signature? What key is this?
What is the note that is repeated in the first and second measure of the first verse?
How does this song make you feel?
How would you describe Benjamin's vocals?
What instruments do you hear?
What elements change in the second verse compared to the first?
When do the background vocals first enter?
How many times does Benjamin use the word "down" in the chorus?

3. This song tells a story about a relationship. Can you think of other songs that do the same thing? What do these songs have in common? What elements of each of these kinds of songs make it relatable to everyone?

CLOSE
Listen to the original version of "Let Me Down Slowly," then listen to the version with Alessia Cara. Ask students to compare the two.

Does the solo version or the duet tell a better story? Why?
Do you think Alessia's vocals add a new element to the song?

ASSESS
Did the students follow along with "Let Me Down Slowly"?
Did they answer the discussion questions?
Did they listen to both versions and compare them?

CROSSWORD SOLUTION