



# LISTENING GUIDE

## “WONDERFUL CHRISTMASTIME” BY PAUL MCCARTNEY

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.3)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

### START

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

### DEVELOP

► **Play** “Wonderful Christmastime” by Paul McCartney (*Hear the Music track 2 on musicalive.com*) while having the students follow along with the timeline.

2. Ask students about the song

**What instruments do you hear?**

**In the intro, are there long notes, short notes, or both?**

**When do you hear the bells come in for the first time?**

**What adjectives would you use to describe the mood of this song?**

**Does the instrumentation ever change?**

**How many times is the chorus sung?**

**How does this song make you feel?**

**During what month was this song written?**

**Do you agree with critics who call this song an earworm?**

**Would you say this song is “brilliant?” Why or why not?**

### CLOSE

Many say that “Wonderful Christmastime” is the “worst Christmas song ever,” because of the strange instruments, basic lyrics and repetition, despite the fact that McCartney is widely considered one of the greatest songwriters of all time as a member of The Beatles. One Christmas song by McCartney’s fellow Beatle, John Lennon, however, is more universally liked.

Listen to “Happy Xmas (War Is Over)” by John Lennon.

Compare the two songs in terms of orchestration, composition, tone, and overall quality. Which song do you like more? Why?

### 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-17\\_3](http://musicalive.com/the-quiz-zone-17_3). Here are the quiz answers:

### SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

1. Four
2. Choosing, playing and blending together pre-recorded songs for an audience
3. Martin Garrix, Marshmello, Skrillex, etc.
4. “Host” events like a bat mitzvah or wedding, making announcements and keeping the night moving
5. It takes a lot of time and effort, and many do not make it to the top
6. The techniques require lots of time commitment and the equipment can be expensive
7. A computer
8. Software, hardware (controllers).
9. Doing research on the internet before buying
10. A Mobile DJ goes from event to event, a Club DJ will perform at the same venue every night

### EARWOMS

1. A fragment of a song that plays over and over in your head
2. A long time ago, people thought dried and chopped up works were a treatment for ear disease
3. They are an involuntary experience
4. That we imagine ourselves singing or dancing along to the music, even if we are just sitting still
5. Simple, repetitive, catchy, easy to sing
6. A short song marked by memorable repetition used in commercials
7. The Wheaties Quartet
8. People recognize the chorus and associate it with the product being sold
9. Distract yourself by having a conversation, doing a puzzle, or listening to a different song
10. Listening to the entire song in order to suppress the brain’s desire to keep repeating one fragment from it

### JULIA MICHAELS

1. She thought that was the only way to get into the business
2. Her mother and sister, as well as Joleen Belle
3. A piano
4. Balance is key; you have to take time to live your life in order to be creative
5. Hot Cheetos
6. Issues
7. Trade Hearts
8. She felt that it was too personal and she should sing it herself
9. 2017
10. If You Need Me