



## FEATURE

# THE SOUNDS OF PEACE: WHAT IS NEW-AGE MUSIC?

*Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 5, 7, 9 and 10*

### OBJECTIVES

- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation (*Pr5*)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art (*Co10*)

### MATERIALS

*Music Alive!* magazines (Vol.39 No.7)  
Good Vibrations Packet (available for download at [musicalive.com](http://musicalive.com))  
Computer or mobile device with Internet access

### START

**Ask your students to read** “The Sounds of Peace: What Is New-Age Music?” on pages 10-13 before reviewing the words below. [This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

**AMBIENT**—a style of instrumental music with electronic textures and no persistent beat, used to create or enhance a mood or atmosphere

**PRIORITIZE**—designate or treat something as more important than other things

**ETHEREAL**—heavenly

**PRECISELY**—exactly

**ESSENCE**—the intrinsic nature of something

**INTENTIONAL**—done on purpose; deliberate

**IMPETUS**—the force or energy with which a body moves

**DIVINITY**—the state or quality of being like a god

**INADVERTENTLY**—accidentally

**NOVELTY**—the quality of being new, original or unusual

**RESURGENCE**—an increase or revival after a period of little popularity

**VISIONARY**—thinking about or planning the future with imagination or wisdom

**ENDORPHIN**—any of a group of hormones secreted within the brain and nervous system

**INCENSE**—a substance that is burned for the sweet smell it produces

**ZITHER**—a musical instrument consisting of a flat wooden sound box with numerous strings stretched across it used especially in central European folk music

**UNCONVENTIONAL**—not based on or conforming to what is generally done or believed in

**EXPLORATORY**—relating to or involving exploration or investigation

**YOGI**—a person who is proficient in yoga

**GRIME**—a form of dance music characterized by machinelike sounds and hip-hop vocals

**ELEGIAC**—having a mournful quality

**MELANCHOLIA**—deep sadness or gloom

**EXOTICA**—objects considered strong or interesting because they are out of the ordinary

### DEVELOP

**Ask students the following questions:**

**In what decade was the first rise of new-age music?**

**What are some characteristics of new-age?**

**What types of sounds would you commonly hear in new-age music?**

**Why did the new-age movement evolve and what was it about?**

**What is “sound healing?”**

**What specific genres of music does new-age often pull from?**

**What is the purpose of new-age music and how can you identify it?**

**In what places and under what circumstances was new-age music played before it was widely accepted in the 60s?**

**Why has new-age seen a resurgence in the last few years?**

**2. Listen to the selections in Hear the Music as a class.**

**What sounds can you identify?**

**What instruments do you hear?**

**How would you describe the essence of these songs?**

**How do they make you feel? Why?**

### CLOSE

Have students find a new-age song of their choosing, and have them bring it back to the class and explain why they chose it. The song could be something they like or don't like, is relaxing or unappealing, or for some other reason.

### ASSESS

**Did the students read the article?**

**Did they answer the review questions?**

**Did they pay attention to the details of each song and select their own?**