



FEATURE

POP HARMONIES

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 7-9, 11

OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work. (*Re7*)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. (*Re8*)
- 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.7)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Pop Harmonies” on pages 6-9. Then, go over the following highlighted words. [**This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.**]

BARBERSHOP—a popular style of close harmony singing, typically for four male voices

CLOSE HARMONY—harmony in which the notes of the chord are close together in vocal music

INTRICATE—very complicated or detailed

SHOWMANSHIP—skill at entertaining and performance

SYNDICATED—published or broadcasted simultaneously in a number of sources

FALSETTO—a method of voice production used by male vocalists to sing notes higher than their normal range

TRADEMARK—a distinctive characteristic

NASAL—produced by resonating in the nose and the mouth, resulting in a wheezy sound

COMPLIMENTARY—praising or approving

PIERCING—extremely high, loud or shrill

ENSEMBLE—a group of musicians who perform together

SUBSEQUENTLY—after a particular thing has happened; afterward

WHIMSICAL—playfully quaint in an appealing way

A CAPELLA—without instrumental accompaniment

DEVELOP

As a class, listen to all of the tracks in Hear the Music

1. “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” by The Andrews Sisters

How are The Andrews Sisters’ voices different from those you typically hear in pop today?

How does this song make you feel? Why?

How many harmony lines do you hear?

2. “Sherry” by Franki Valli and The Four Seasons

Do these vocals sound closer to The Andrews Sisters or to pop music of today?

How many harmony lines do you hear?

How would you describe Franki Valli’s voice?

Would this song have a different effect if it only had one vocalist?

3. “Good Vibrations” by The Beach Boys

How is the style of this song different from the first two?

How does this song make you feel? Why?

What similarities can you draw between this song and “Sherry” by The Four Seasons?

CLOSE

Why do you think pop harmonies have lasted so many decades, when the genres have changed so much? Do you think vocalists will continue to use these techniques in the future? Why or why not?

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?

Did they review the vocabulary words?

Did they answer the supplemental questions?