



SONG OF THE MONTH

“HOLD ON” BY H.E.R

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.40 No.6)
 Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

1. Ask students to read the text on pages XX-XX on their own
2. Have one of the students read aloud the text on page 14-16
3. Play H.E.R.'s “Hold On” (*Hear the Music track 1 on musicalive.com*), while the students read through the notation on pages 17-18

DEVELOP

Ask students about the story:

Who inspired Wilson to become a musician?
How did H.E.R. get her first big break?
Why did H.E.R. refrain from disclosing her identity?
At what age did she begin singing? When did she become H.E.R.?

Which pop icon serves as her constant source of inspiration?
In addition to her solo work, what types of collaborations has she done?

How many GRAMMY nominations has H.E.R. received? How many has she won?

What other projects does H.E.R. spend time on? Why do you think she participates in philanthropic work?

2. Ask students questions about the song “Hold On”:

How many flats/sharps are in the key signature?
What key is the song in?
What instruments are heard in the song?
When does the first verse begin?
What is this song about?
Is this song fast or slow?
Which H.E.R. album is “Hold On” from?
How does the track sound? Are the lyrics clear, or is it distorted? What makes the song unique?

Does R&B sound similar/different to other music genres? Why?
How does it make you feel? Why do you think it makes you feel that way?
Which part of the song is your favorite and why?

CLOSE

Watch the YouTube clip for “Keep Holding On.”

Discuss: Compare the unplugged version of “Keep Holding On” with her recorded “Hold On.” How does H.E.R.’s vocal style change between the two? Why? Are both songs considered R&B? Which do you prefer?

Or

Watch her guitar battle with Jimmy Fallon.

Discuss: What other styles of music was she asked to play? How would you describe her talent? What kind of guitar is she playing?

ASSESS

Did the students follow along with the song?
 Did they answer the discussion questions?

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Crossword Puzzle can be found on page 7

