

Two Hazy Shades of Winter

Students will compare/contrast two recordings of the song “Hazy Shade of Winter” written by Paul Simon. The first will be the original Simon and Garfunkel recording from 1966 and the second will be the Bangles recording from 1987.

Performance Standard

8: Apply appropriate personally-developed criteria to evaluate musical works or performances.

Lesson Objective

Knowledge: Analysis and Context, Instruments (specifically those found in pop/rock ensembles)

Skills: The ability to recognize and compare differences in sound and style of two performances of the same work. Dispositions: Curiosity, Creativity, Flexibility Vocabulary: Style (as it relates to modern “radio music”) i.e. Folk/Rock/Pop. Acoustic and Electric Instruments. Poetic Devices (such as Alliteration, Metaphor, Simile).

Knowledge

Context, Evaluation Criteria

Skills

Aural & Notational Skills, Evaluating

Dispositions

Inquisitiveness, Openness and respect for the ideas of others

Vocabulary

Not stated

Assessment Evidence

Students will be engaged in class listening and discussion of the two recordings. They will then complete an evaluation form for the two performances.

Learning Plan

1.1 – Play the original recording of “Hazy Shade of Winter” by Simon and Garfunkel. 1.2 – Play the 1987 recording of the same song by the Bangles 1.3 – Discuss the lyrics to the song (students may receive a handout of lyrics or the lyrics may be displayed on a projection for the full class). Find use of poetic devices such as alliteration, metaphor, simile 1.4 - Lead the discussion encouraging students to describe how the lyrics are served by the melody – and how each recording treats the lyrics and melody. Is one more expressive? Is one easier to understand? Is one more appealing? 1.5

- Give the students access to both recordings (via a link on DropBox) so they can listen to the songs again at home. 2.1 – Based on whatever interesting observations the students make through the first day’s discussion, play portions of each song that highlight some of those ideas. 2.2 – Lead another discussion with the class to determine if their overnight listening led them to new conclusions. 2.3 – Have the students fill out their evaluation form for the two performances and turn in. The form will have the following questions: 1. What are the major differences in the two performances? 2. What are the major similarities in the two performances? 3. What idea or expressive element does the original recording demonstrate better than the 1987 recording? Now what idea or expressive element does the 1987 recording demonstrate better than the original recording? 4. Is one of these recordings “better” than the other? Explain your answer in a few sentences. 5. If you were to start a band and create your own recording, what would you do to improve the listener’s experience?

Differentiation and Inclusion

Students will be provided with the required materials to complete the assignment. Modifications to the assignment will be made available as per student IEP agreements.

Materials

Recordings of “Hazy Shade of Winter” by Simon and Garfunkel and by the Bangles. Sound System to play the music Classroom Projector and/or Printed Lyric Sheets Student Access to Computers and Dropbox

Relation to the 1994 Standards

- Evaluating music and music performances
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture.