

CCA's February & March Noteworthy News

Here are the musical happenings at CCA last month and in the month to come:

1st Grade: We have been singing "God Bless the U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood. The kids have loved it and picked it up very quickly! We've been studying and listening to the music from "Hansel and Gretel" for most of the month. We've also been and will continue to be singing "America the Beautiful," "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow," and "Yankee Doodle." Our focus during the month of March will be on Jazz!

2nd Grade: Some of the songs we've been singing are "God Bless the U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood, "This Land is Your Land," and "Every Good Boy Does Fine." We listened to "The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi, and learned about this composer's background. After listening to each of the four seasons, we wrote about the instruments we heard and how each piece made us feel. We've learned the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd." Please be sure to ask your second grader about this song, and the true meaning of it!!

3rd Grade: We studied the composer Peter Tchaikovsky. He composed the music for numerous famous ballets including "Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker." We focused our study on the ballet "Swan Lake." We learned how music and dance can tell a story. We've been singing numerous songs, including "God Bless the U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood. It's been a huge hit! We also learned some musical history by viewing a video titled "From Bach to Rock." We will be listening to and learning the story to Rossini's "William Tell Overture."

4th Grade: After listening to Mozart's comic opera "The Magic Flute" on CD (in English), we watched it on video in German (the language Mozart wrote it for). Fortunately the German was enhanced with English narration. Yet, all the students agreed they preferred listening to the opera on CD over viewing it on video. Please be sure to ask your fourth grader about "The Magic Flute." They should be able to give you good detail about it! We will begin a study of Mozart next. We've been singing "God Bless the U.S.A." as well as playing our recorders. This class is becoming very good on the recorder!

5th Grade: We've been singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless the U.S.A." We have been studying spirituals, and have viewed the popular spiritual group "Sweet Honey in the Rock." We have also been working on our recorders quite a bit, and we are able to play slightly longer songs now. We will

begin a study of Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" during the month of March.

Junior High: We learned about Berlioz, a composer from the Romantic Era, and we listened to many of his works. We have been and currently are studying jazz—it's roots, famous jazz musicians, and how it has effected the music we listen to today.