

Music Unit Plans

What is a unit?

- A series of related lessons
- ...organized around a central topic
- ...that together comprise a portion of the curriculum
- ...and end with a culminating activity,
 - e.g., performance, presentation, product
(*composition, paper, test, recording, etc.*)

How to choose a unit topic?

- interesting to both teacher and students
 - *E.g., **Canadian Folk Music***
- ‘generative’ – able to stimulate learning, thinking, discussion, activity, curiosity, creativity
- connect students to a ‘big idea’ within the domain
 - *significance of folk music as a means of self and cultural expression*
- inspires ‘essential questions’ more about inquiry than answers
 - *How and why do Canadians, past and present, express themselves through folk music?*

What can be a unit topic?

- a musical concept: *music in video games, advertising*
- a musical skill: *preparing a concert, producing a recording*
- a piece: *Folksong Medley*
- a musical genre: *blues, bossa nova, plainchant, gamelan*
- performers: *Yo Yo Ma, Drake, Canadian Brass, Rheostatics*
- a composer/ songwriter
- etc.

How to design a unit?

- Identify topic
 - *interesting, generative, connect to 'big ideas'?*
- Identify appropriate learning outcomes
 - *mandated curricula, and learning that YOU care about*
- Determine ways students can demonstrate the learning
 - *various products and performances*
- Plan learning experiences
 - ...that will enable them to CREATE those products and performances, i.e.,
 - *music to perform and listen to*
 - **diverse* class and homework activities*
- Gather/create the necessary resources you will need
 - *scores/parts, ppts, recordings, handouts, etc.*