**Music Appreciation Snow Packet 6-10**

Read the following BIO information on the following 10 American Composers. On a Piece of paper number and list the composer name. Write 3-5 sentences on each composer 1-10 based on the short bio. Then for each composer go to youtube.com or another search engine or site of your choice. Search the composer name and then listen to a piece of the composer music for 2-3 minutes. Write under the composer sentences the name of the selection you listened too and a listening impression, which is your thoughts about the music. Listen for the Elements of music which include: Tone color, Dynamics, Melody, Harmony, tempo, pitch, and rhythm

You will be doing 2 composers per.day

**The Best American Composers**

**Day 6**

**1. Leonard Bernstein**

Leonard Bernstein’s big break came quite by chance when he was called to conduct the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at the last minute when Bruno Walter was struck down with flu. Bernstein never looked back and went on to become one of the great names in American music. A hugely talented conductor and pianist, he is best known for West Side Story that catapulted him into the mainstream. Born in Massachusetts to Ukrainian parents, he moved to New York after graduating from Harvard, where he became firm friends with Aaron Copland. Bernstein died in 1990 and as the funeral procession made its through the streets of Manhattan to his final resting place in Brooklyn, construction workers removed their hats and waved, yelling "Goodbye, Lenny".

**2. John Williams**

Think of a major blockbuster from the past 40 years, and it's likely John Williams provided the music: Stars Wars, E.T., Jurassic Park and Schindler's List are just a tiny list of the films that Williams has sound tracked. Born in Long Island in 1932 Williams has won five Academy Awards and four Golden Globe Awards and was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame in 2000.

**Day 7**

**3. Igor Stravinsky**

Stravinsky was quite the jet-setter. Born in Russia, he lived in Switzerland and France before moving to Los Angeles after the outbreak of World War II. He would live in this city longer than anywhere else and became a fully-fledged United States citizen in 1945. His time in West Hollywood was a long way from his lonely schooldays in St Petersburg as Stravinsky struck up friendships with other European ex-pats such as W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Dylan Thomas and Aldous Huxley. His most prolific period may have been behind him, but he still occasionally conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. But it wasn’t all smooth sailing in the States when Stravinsky ran into trouble with the authorities in 1944 with his unconventional major seventh chord arrangement of The Star-Spangled Banner. In later life, Stravinsky moved to New York where he lived until his death in 1971, aged 88

**4. Eric Whitacre**

One of America’s most recognizable, and most successful contemporary composers, Nevada-born Eric Whitacre has become a household name across the globe. A versatile musician, he’s written for the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Julian Lloyd Webber, the Philharmonic Orchestra and composed film scores; his musical, Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings, has won a host of awards while his record, Cloudburst, was an international best-seller and even earned him a Grammy. But perhaps his most exciting project is his Virtual Choir that brings together people from around the world to sing in a truly global performance via YouTube.

**Day 8**

**5. Philip Glass**

Maryland-born Philip Glass has had a long and varied career, collaborating with everyone from Leonard Cohen to Martin Scorsese and encompassing all musical genres. Despite gaining a wide audience outside the concert hall, Glass describes himself as a classicist writing works for the musical group which he founded, the Philip Glass Ensemble. He has picked up several awards for his soundtracks, including an Oscar for his score to The Truman show and a BAFTA for The Hours. Jiří Kylián’s ballet Wings of Wax featured the music of Philip Glass alongside that of Bach’s. Pictured is the Netherlands Dan’s Theatre dancing a scene from the ballet at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre in 2008.

**6. Elmer Bernstein**

A friend of Leonard but no relation, Brooklyn-born Elmer is most famous for his numerous film scores. Amongst his great achievements were the soundtracks to The Magnificent Seven, The Ten Commandments, The Great Escape, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Ghostbusters. He won an Oscar for his score to Thoroughly Modern Millie in 1967.

**Day 9**

**7. Steve Reich**

Along with Philip Glass, New Yorker Steve Reich is credited with spearheading the minimalist movement and helped change the landscape of classical music. His experimental works, that include ‘Come Out’, a work that features the spoken voice of one of the Harlem Six victims, led the New York Times to call him "our greatest living composer". Reich was awarded the Premium Imperial award in Music in October 2006 in Tokyo. The award highlights in areas of the arts not covered by the Nobel Prize In October 2006 in Tokyo.

**8. Samuel Barber**

Samuel Barber was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and took a great interest in music from a young age. He wrote his first work The School for Scandal when he was just 21. A few years later he wrote the piece that he would become synonymous with, Adagio for Strings. In its original form it’s part of a string quartet but he was urged to rearrange it for a full orchestra by Arturo Toscanini. Adagio for Strings was a huge success even before it was used so movingly in Oliver Stone’s Platoon. The Metropolitan Opera's home at the Lincoln Center (pictured) was opened in 1966 with a special work commissioned for the opening by Samuel Barber entitled Anthony and Cleopatra.

**Day 10**

**9. Jay Ungar**

Another New York born composer, Ungar is perhaps known for his Ashokan Farewell. It's a piece of music written as a farewell waltz for the annual Ashokan Fiddle & Dance Camps, that Ungar ran with his wife at at the Ashokan Reservoir lakefront campus in the state of New York. The tune was later used as the title theme of the 1990 US mini-series, The Civil War.

**10. Morten Lauridsen**

Lauridsen’s fantastic body of work, which includes O Magnum Mysterium, Contre Qui, Rose and Dirait-on has made him the most-frequently performed American choral composer. Born in Washington State in 1943, he moved south to study composition at the University of Southern California in the early 1960s. He still teaches there to this day, splitting his time between the university and Waldron Island off the coast of Washington State where he writes in a converted general store. The 2012 documentary film Shining Night: A Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen (DVD pictured) follows the composer from his Waldron Island retreat to rehearsals in California and Scotland.