

# TEACHER GUIDE for OVERVIEW of *Music in the Life of President Lincoln*



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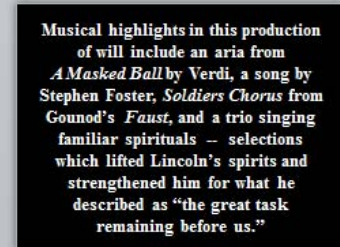
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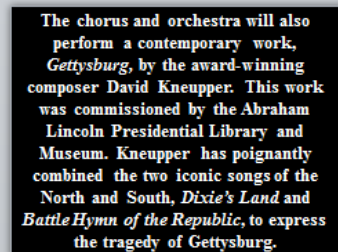
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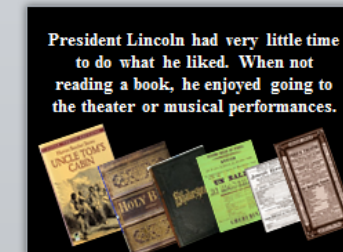
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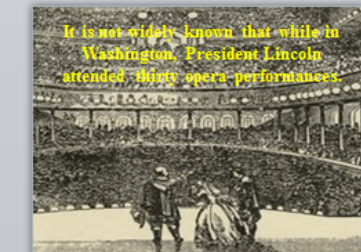


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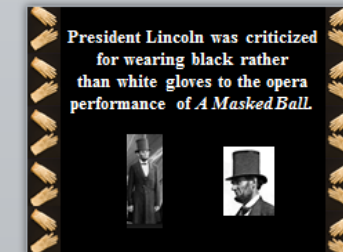
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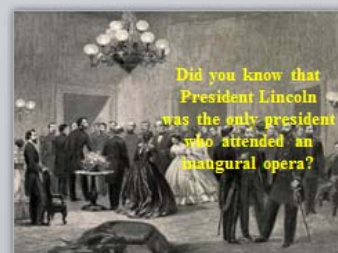
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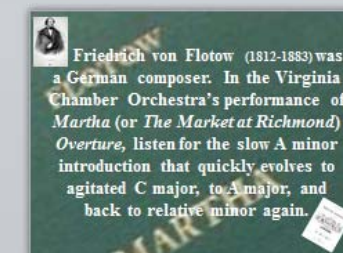
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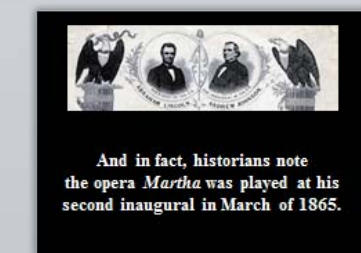
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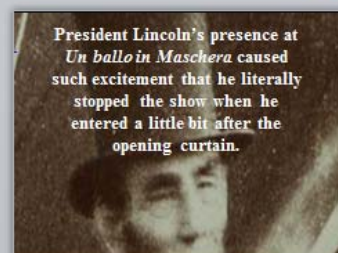
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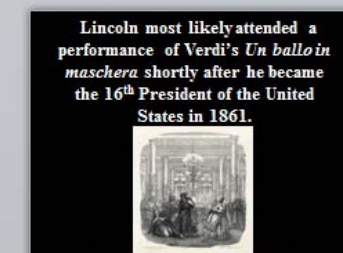
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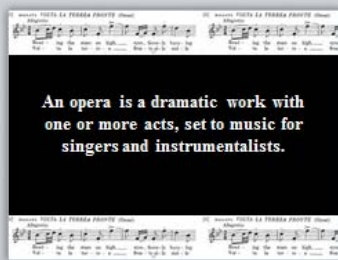
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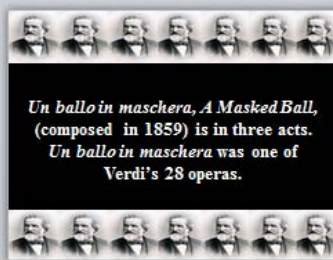


18



An opera is a dramatic work with one or more acts, set to music for singers and instrumentalists.

19



*Un ballo in maschera, A Masked Ball,* (composed in 1859) is in three acts. *Un ballo in maschera* was one of Verdi's 28 operas.

20



You will hear Meghan McCall sing *Volta la terra*

21

Ms. McCall is a coloratura soprano. A coloratura is the highest soprano voice. The coloratura vocally performs runs, trills, and other florid decorations. Listen for these in Ms. McCall's operatic solos accompanied by the Virginia Chamber Orchestra.

22

You may wish to watch this excerpt of *Un Ballo in Maschera* as performed by the Royal Opera House in London.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah4bW0tgo>




23


Abraham Lincoln had a wide variety of musical tastes. He enjoyed Stephen Foster's music both before he became president and while he was living in the White House.

24

*Oh! Susanna* is a minstrel song by Stephen Foster. It is among the most popular American songs ever written.



25



Stephen Collins Foster  
"Father of American Music"  
1826–1864

You will find several lessons plans about Stephen Foster and *Oh! Susanna* on the VCO's webpage.

26

The Alexandria Choral Society will perform *Oh! Susanna* accompanied by the Virginia Chamber Orchestra.



27

Maestro Grandis will conduct the Alexandria Choral Society in their performance of *Annie Laurie*. Their performance will be acapella -- not accompanied by the VCO.




28



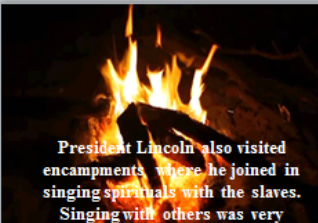
You will meet Taylor and Kevin, our host, Robert Aubrey Davis, and author Betty Monkman.

29



You will have the opportunity to hear Elizabeth Brownstein talk about the Lincoln's Summer House and other interesting musical and historical facts.


30



President Lincoln also visited encampments where he joined in singing spirituals with the slaves. Singing with others was very meaningful to him.

31


You will hear Mr. Davis say President Lincoln's singing voice was monotone at best. This means his singing was more like a chant -- all on one note.



32

Next you will hear the Grand Contraband Jubilee singers perform two spirituals. Spirituals are songs created and sung by African slaves and their children born in the United States in the 1800s. Spirituals were originally shared in the oral tradition and imparted Christian values while also describing the hardships of slavery.

33




"Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"

34



"Many Thousands Gone"

35



Abraham Lincoln liked the song *Dixie's Land* because of the happiness he experienced while either singing by himself or listening to someone else perform it.

36





President Lincoln expressed the hope that 'Dixie' would become a symbol of reconciliation as a national song after the Civil War ended.

37

A minstrel show was most often three acts that included dancing, singing, slapstick humor and wisecrack jokes. Daniel Emmett, (most likely) the composer of *(I Wish I Was in) Dixie's Land*, was one of the early producers of the minstrel show style.

38



Daniel Decatur Emmett  
1815-1904

39

Dixie was defined as the eleven southern states that seceded in late 1860 and early 1861 to form the Confederate States of America.



They are (in order of secession) South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee.

40

In minstrel shows, actors painted their faces and hands black and impersonated caricatures of African-American men and women. Although minstrel shows were a popular form of entertainment during President Lincoln's time, minstrel show performances are no longer seen as an appropriate kind of entertainment.

41



*(I Wish I Was in) Dixie's Land* was popular and soon became a Confederate war song.

42

Some people consider *Dixie's Land* controversial because of the song's lyrics and the minstrel shows in which it appeared and became popular. You should know, however, listen to and understand the lyrics.

43



44

You may wish to sing these lyrics to the tune of *Dixie*.

45

**Verse 1:**  
Come all who live in the USA,  
Join in our song and sing today.  
Work away. Work away,  
For the land of the free;

46

United firm with every state  
To make a nation good and great,  
Work away. Work away,  
For the land of the free;

47

**Chorus:**  
The USA forever! Hooray! Hooray!  
The stars and stripes shall wave  
above  
The USA forever.  
Hooray! Hooray!  
The Stars and Stripes forever!

48

**Verse 2:**  
The north, and south, and east, and  
west  
We love them all for all are best,  
Work away. Work away,  
For the land of the free;

49

United States, hearts and hands,  
Will make the greatest of all lands,  
Work away. Work away,  
For the land of the free;

50

**Chorus:**  
The USA forever! Hooray! Hooray!  
The stars and stripes shall wave  
above  
The USA forever.  
Hooray! Hooray!  
The Stars and Stripes forever!

51



Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910) was a prominent American poet, abolitionist, activist who penned the lyrics to *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

52



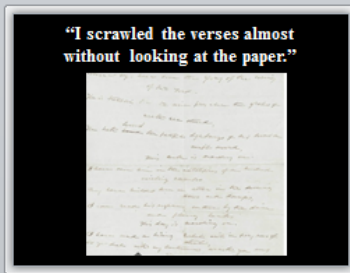
*The Battle Hymn of the Republic* was written during the American Civil War when Mrs. Howe visited a Union Army camp near Washington, D. C.

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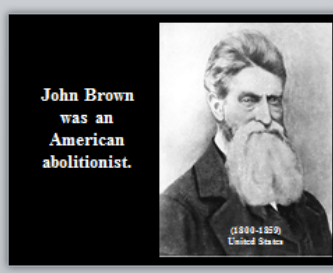
Mrs. Howe was stirred when she heard soldiers singing *John Brown's Body*. When she woke the next morning, her poem seemed to flow from her pen.



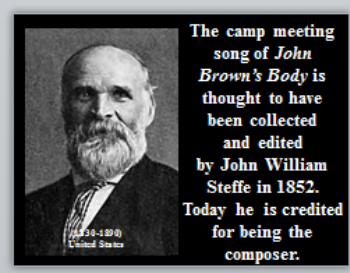
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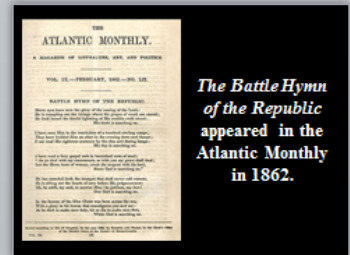
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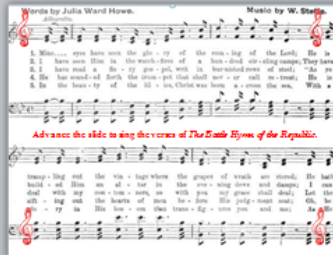
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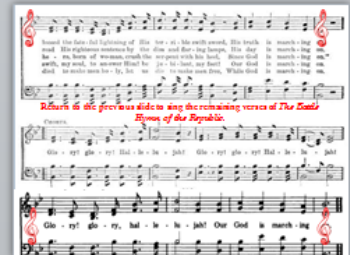
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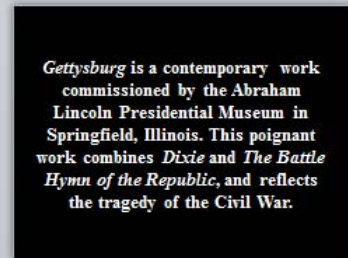
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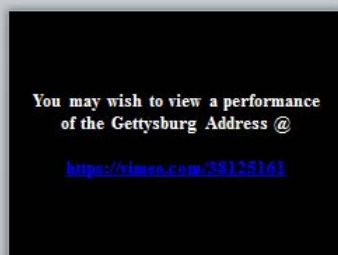
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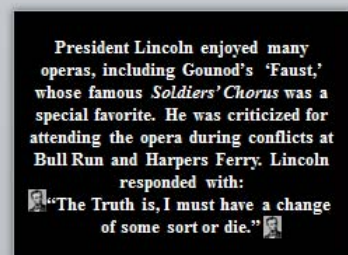
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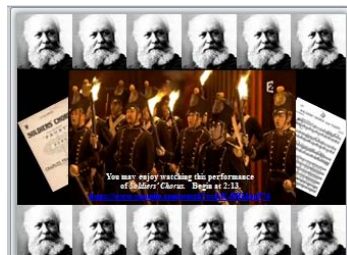
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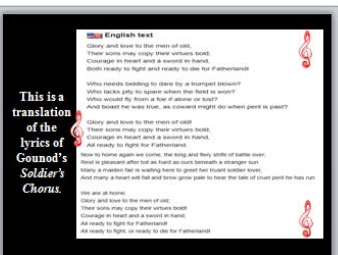
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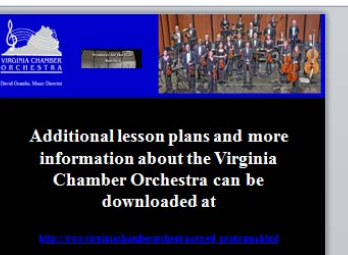
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