

# “MUSIC TELLS THE STORY™” FOR TEACHERS

## Coursework for Teaching Music Composition

### Cue Sheet for Teachers



## Coursework for Teachers Who Teach General Music or Introduction to Music Theory and Composition

### Workshop Description

In this one-hour workshop Ayala Asherov walks music teachers through a project that introduces students to music composition through the medium of storytelling. This interdisciplinary project introduces the skills of music composition through literature and drama using examples from film, opera, theater, radio and dance.

After taking this one-hour course, teachers can immediately apply this project to their music curriculum. Through listening and hearing exercises, this project fulfills six National Core Arts Standards and is recommended for students enrolled in beginning composition or general music courses.

#### Course Outline

**Skill-Level: For general music or beginning composition students**

#### Section 1 Music as Character

**School term: 2 classes**

Demonstrate how music can help describe a character or a mood.

Discuss the role of a composer.

Demonstrate how a composer puts musical ideas together.

Introduce elements of music composition: rhythm, pitch, melody, harmony, timbre/instrument.

Discuss composers who use stories to write their music e.g. From Opera, Dance, Theatre.

Study musical form through the story of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf."

#### Section 2 Music as Soundtrack

**School term: 1 class**

Explore various techniques of underscoring and identify how music enhances a story.

Listen to contrasting examples of music in film.

Analyze the use of music in film.

#### Section 3 Music as Storyline

**School term: 2 classes**

Each student brings a poem or short story to class.

Explore as a class what musical ideas can bring to each literary work.

Describe and express in writing these musical ideas.

Have the teacher demonstrate several of these musical ideas on the piano.

#### About Ayala Asherov

Ayala Asherov holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music in composition and film scoring. She went on to receive her Masters degree in Film Scoring at the University of North Carolina, School of the Arts.

Ayala's music ranges from songwriting, to music in the concert hall, to multimedia including film, museum exhibitions and dance. She has underscored exhibits at the Jerusalem Theater, the Boston Aquarium and the Geshur Museum in Israel. Her best known piece, "Along the Sea" ("Le'Orech Ha Yam"), is one of the most recorded songs in modern Israeli musical history. The popular Israeli singer Ofra Haza made the song her own, and performed it at the memorial service for Yitzhak Rabin.

In 2014, Ayala conceived and produced the project *Music Tells The Story*. Together with the South Carolina Communities in Schools program, the Addeystone Foundation, the South Carolina Arts Commission and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, *Music Tells The Story™* challenges public schools to help young students to creatively express themselves through literature and music. Ayala is currently teaching songwriting at the College of Charleston.

*"Asherov is among a new generation of composers who are breaking down barriers between genres. I think that she has something to say in that direction."*

- Steve Rosenberg, Former Chair of the Department of Music, College of Charleston

## NATIONAL STANDARDS

This project fulfills several National Core Arts Standards. Here are a few examples:

#### Imagine

Music Theory/Composition: Describe how sounds and short musical ideas can be used to represent personal experiences, moods, visual images and storylines

#### Plan/Make

Music Theory/Composition: Assemble and organize sounds or short musical ideas to create initial expressions of selected experiences, moods, images or storylines