

Juilliard

Distance Learning Ideas for Music Teachers

Ways with Words

Ages 12 to 14



Teacher Overview

This unit will help students add to their compositional toolboxes when working with text. Students will consider three ways of working with text—exploring the sounds of the words, expressing meaning musically, and discovering how instrumental layers can reinforce or contrast a vocal line. They will listen to a range of examples from various styles, genres, and time periods as they build their composing and listening skills.

Following this Teacher Overview, the unit has 3 activities to share with students. The activities may be distributed as a complete package or separately as follows:

Activity 1—Say It to the Beat

Students will combine interesting sounding text with a musical beat in order to explore the way sound and pulse can interact.

Activity 2—Musical Onomatopoeia

Students will express the meanings of verbs through musical choices and consider how composers find inspiration through text.

Activity 3—Painting with Sound

Students will set text to music and explore how the addition of instrumental lines can create another layer of meaning.

Ideas for distance learning facilitation:

- In order to experience a wide range of compositional ideas and perspectives, students may benefit from opportunities to share their work with classmates throughout this unit. You may consider having students share their work at the end of each activity or compile portfolios at the end.

Modification suggestions for special needs:

- Instead of speaking the text themselves in Activity 1, students could ask a family member to recite the tongue twisters aloud.

Assessment strategies:

- Students can submit performances from each activity for teacher feedback or can share and compare work with a classmate.