

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY PRESENTS:



THE NEW WORLD SYMPHONY BY ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

Lessons and Materials created by Lucíola Lewis (Orchestra Director, Green Hope High School)
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**Students will analyze
Antonin Dvořák's New
World Symphony and
connect it to broader
interdisciplinary questions
of historical context and
creation of music.**



Novice General Music

- B.CN.1 Relate musical ideas and works with personal, societal, cultural, historical, and daily life contexts, including diverse and marginalized groups.
- B.CN.1.2 Identify how the creation and performance of music is supported by concepts from other content areas.
- B.CN.2.1 Describe how various individuals contribute to the creation, production, design, and marketing of music.

Novice Vocal and Instrumental Music

- N.CN.1 Relate musical ideas and works with personal, societal, cultural, historical, and daily life contexts, including diverse and marginalized groups.
- N.CN.1.2 Explain how concepts from other content areas can inspire the development of musical ideas
- N.CN.2.2 Compare how various innovative tools and ideas have been used in a variety of musical works.

Where do you
hear music in
everyday life?

Read the following article

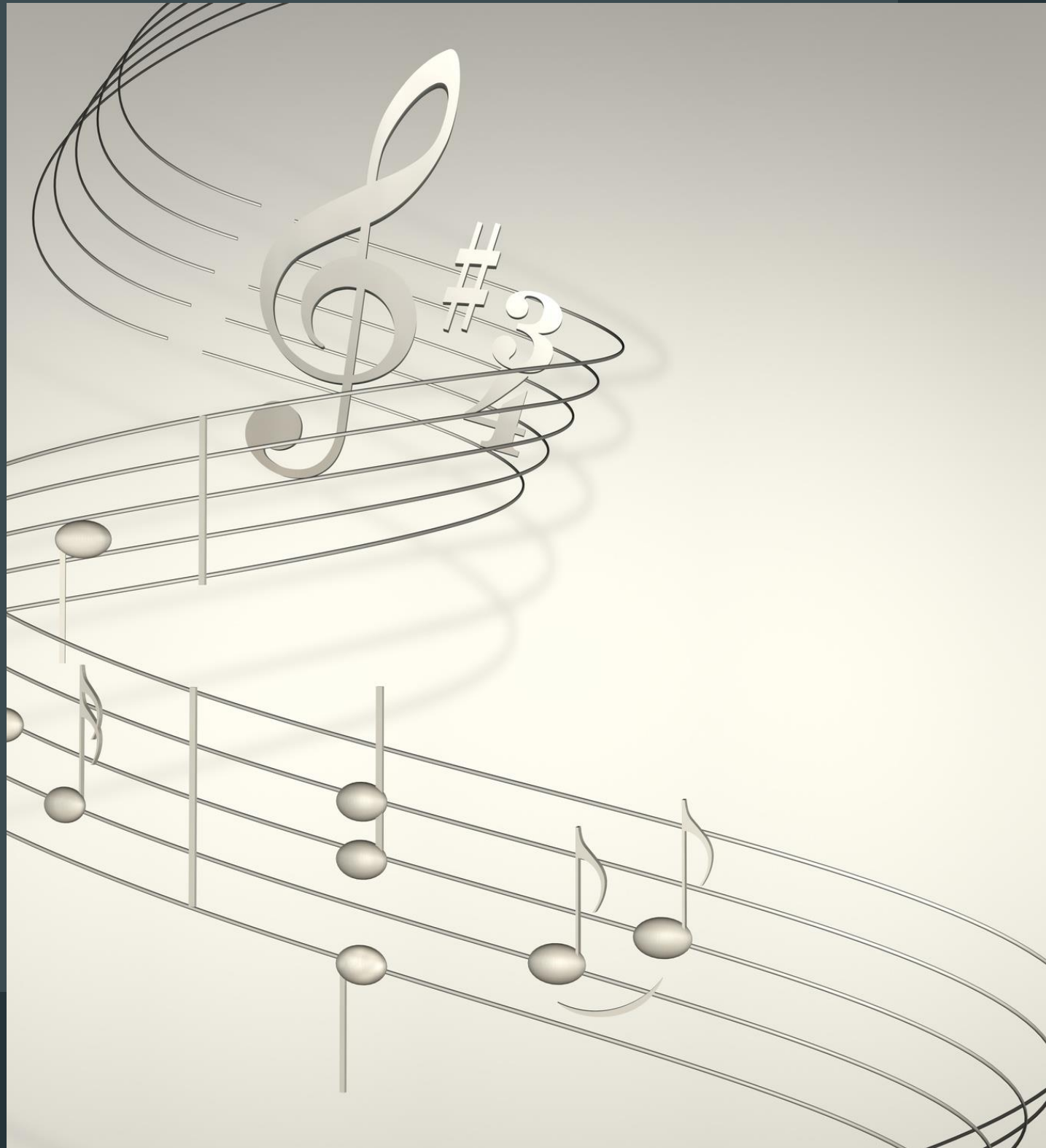
[How The 'New World' Symphony Introduced American Music To Itself](#)





Discussion:

Discuss the article with your class.



Music Vocabulary:

Movement I

Allegro Molto: A directive to perform the indicated passage of a composition at a very fast tempo.

Largo: A slow and solemn tempo marking, having between 40 and 60 beats per minute.

Motif: A short tune or musical figure that characterizes and unifies a composition. It can be of any length but is usually only a few notes long. A motif can be a melodic, harmonic or rhythmic pattern that is easily recognizable throughout the composition.

Pastoral: A composition representing rural, or country life.

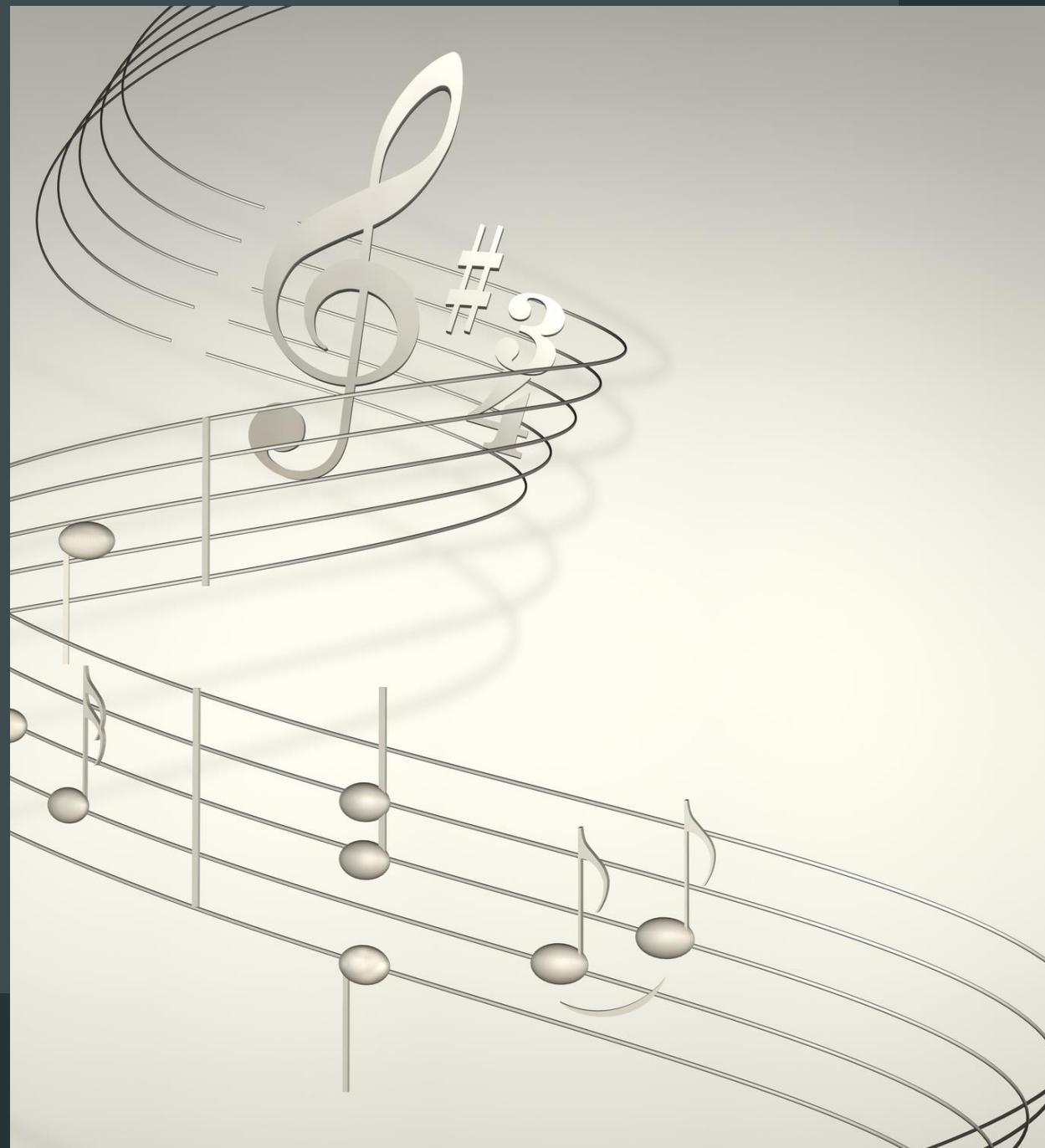
Example:

Beethoven's Symphony No. 6

The New World Symphony by Antonín Dvořák

Performed by The North
Carolina Symphony Orchestra





Vocabulary:

Movement II

Authentic:

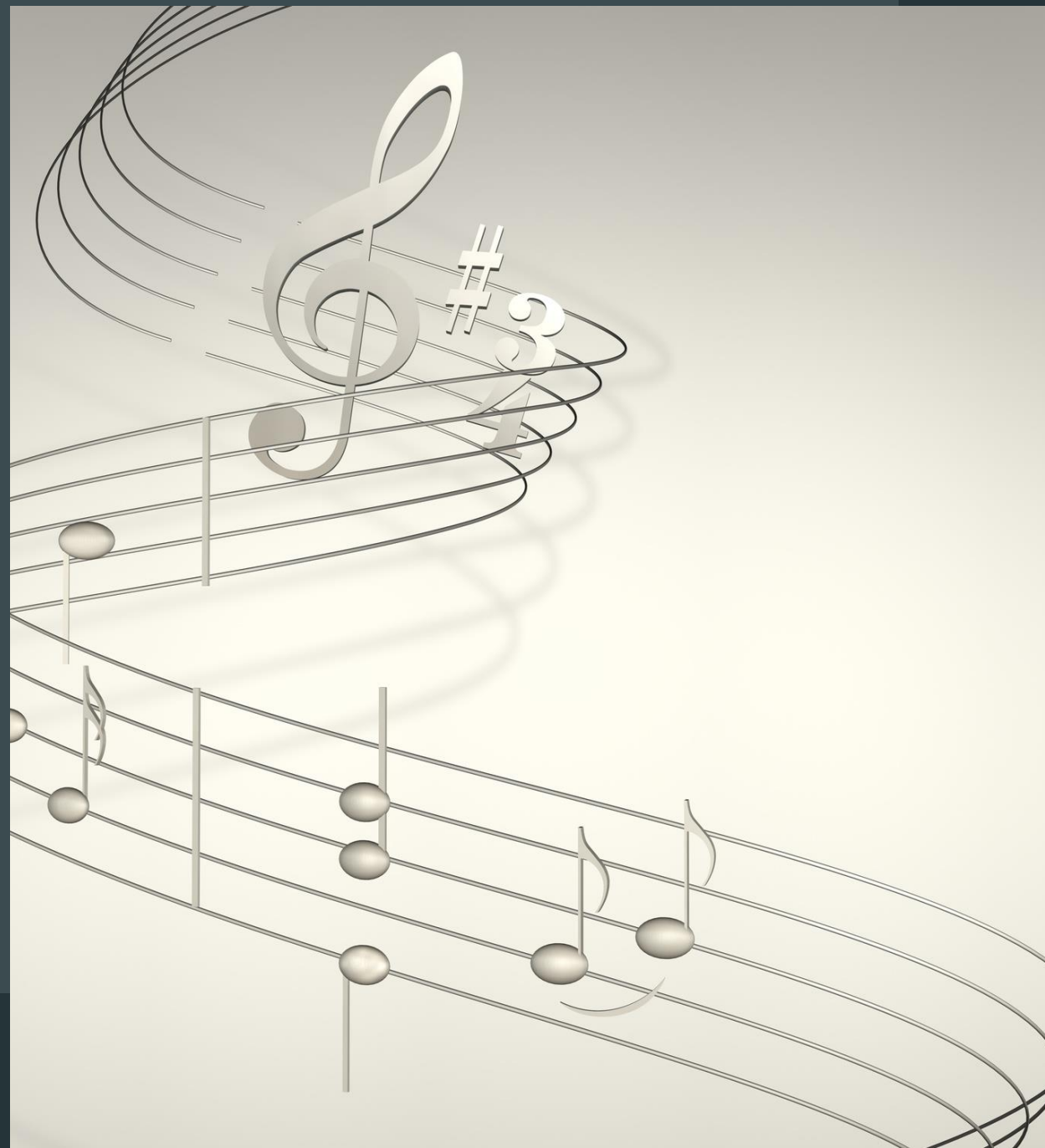
: not false or imitation : REAL, ACTUAL

Synthesized:

: to produce (something, such as music) by an electronic synthesizer

Salient:

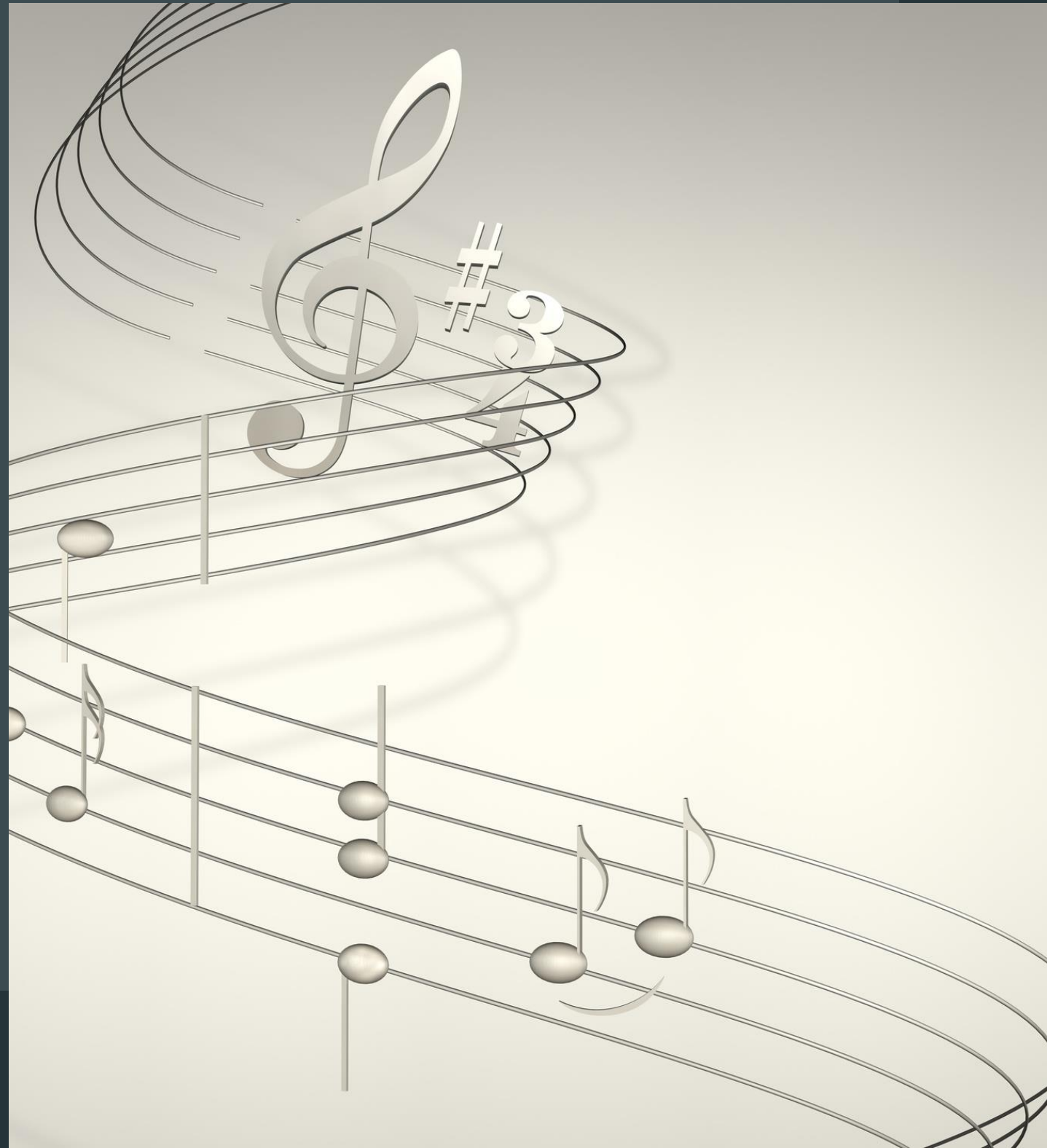
: standing out conspicuously : PROMINENT
especially : of notable significance



Vocabulary:

Movement III

The Song of Hiawatha: "Longfellow used rhythmic poetry to convey various Native American myths to a popular audience. Primarily, the epic poem highlights the stories of the Ojibwe people of the Lake Superior region. Its main focuses are the adventures of a fictional Ojibwe hero, Hiawatha, his gifts to his people, and his tragic love story with a Dakota woman, Minnehaha." - [National Park Service](#)



Vocabulary:

Movement IV

Glints: : to appear briefly or faintly

Class Discussion:

How does knowing the story of this piece's creation change your experience of listening?

Class Discussion:

What are some specific ways you heard the piece illustrate how “Dvořák wove American roots music into his vast symphonic canvas?”

Class Discussion:

What do you think the composer's assistant, Harry Burleigh, would think about this piece?

Class Discussion:

What “music” from everyday life might we listen more carefully to?

Sources

1

Huizenga, T. (2018, November 24). "How The "New World" Symphony Introduced American Music To Itself." NPR.org. <https://www.npr.org/sections/deceptivecadence/2018/11/24/669557133/dvorak-new-world-symphony-american-anthem>

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Kapilow, R. (2019). *Listening for America: inside the great American songbook from Gershwin to Sondheim*. Liveright Publishing Corporation.

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Program for "Dvořák: New World Symphony" at Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh. North Carolina Symphony, 2025. <https://ncsymphony.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2526-FF01-NEW-WORLD-print-file.pdf>

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OnMusic Dictionary. (n.d.). OnMusic Dictionary. <https://dictionary.onmusic.org/>

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