

Where the Prairies Meet the Pines (a piece for jr. high band by Tyrone A. McKenzie)

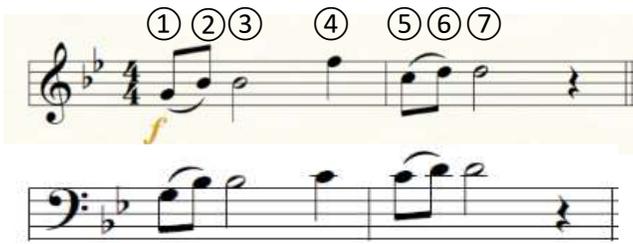
Questions:

Title and Intro:

Title – Why did the composer call this piece “Where the Prairies Meet the Pines”?

- List 3 unique characteristics of the prairies and three unique characteristics of woodland (pine) forests.

Intro – 7 Sacred Teachings. List the teachings. Which one do you like the most? Which one is most difficult for you?



Play the opening motif.

What do you notice about it? (pitches, motion, range) When you hear it or play it, does it have a feeling you can attach to it? Does it have a color? What does it remind you of?

Try this. Get together with 4 of your bandmates. Have each one play one of the pitches in the opening motif. Have each person hold the note to play a chord together. What does it sound like?

Play with the rhythms of your pitches. Form new melodies. Form new chords by having the bass instruments play a different pitch each time.

Indigenous section:

- What does "kistahpinanihk" mean? Why do you think it was called that? Why is Prince Albert's current location the perfect place for "kistahpinanihk"?
- Do you hear "God save the Queen" during the Dakota section? What was it called in the 1800s?
- Why was the war of 1812 important to the Dakota people?
- Sax players, make the sound of geese with your instrument? Can clarinets do it as well?
- What are some of the animals important to the plains, woodland and swampee Cree? Can you make any of those sounds with your instrument?
- Who was Thanadelthur? Why is she important to the Dene people?
- Make sounds with a whirly tube. Why do you think it was chosen to represent Thanadelthur? Can you make a triad or chord with a whirly tube? Can you play a melody such as the 7 sacred Teaching motif with a whirly tube?

Metis section:

- Make Singing sticks for yourself. Can you make the sound of a fire? Can you make that sound with two branches or sticks?
- Who was James Isbister? What is the difference between a jig and a reel?
 - o Why are music and dancing important to the Metis? What does Metis dancing remind you of?
- Why was the river important to Metis people? What was their contribution in connection to the river?
- Play a roll on the bass drum. Does it sound like a bison stampede? Why were bison important to the Metis?

Settler section:

- List some of the activities and accomplishments of Reverend James Nisbet.
- Why did he call the settlement Prince Albert? What's a consort? Name some interesting accomplishments and qualities of the original Prince Albert. Can you find some of Prince Albert's musical compositions? Do you hear any of them in "Where the Prairies Meet the Pines"?
- Why did James Nisbet pick this spot for his settlement?

Group questions for a Sharing Circle (It is strongly encouraged that an elder can be present):

- Form a sharing circle with your classmates. Talk about 3 things you're grateful for today, and one thought or feeling you have regarding "Where the Prairies Meet the Pines".
- Do you belong to one of these three groups? What do you know about your heritage? Do you have a parent, grandparent or older relative you could interview about your heritage? What do you think you would learn with that exercise?
- Write up a fictional short story about a character belonging to one of these three groups. Try and give the reader a sense of what life would have been like for them before or while Prince Albert was becoming a settlement.