Fanfares!

Teaching Objective

The students will learn about fanfares and their history. They will listen to a fanfare and make a word bank to use in writing a poem to explain the purpose of the fanfare.

Pre-Assessment

Ask students to give a definition of a fanfare. When are fanfares typically used? (wedding, coronation, Olympics)

Teaching Sequence

1. Tell students that a fanfare is "a lot of talk or activity showing that people are excited about something." Merriam-Webster Online. Throughout history, composers have used music to signal something is happening. Traditionally, fanfares are played by trumpets and brass instruments. Some of the first fanfares date back over 2000 years ago and were played on the shofar, an instrument made out of the horn of a ram. In 1241, a bugle played a fanfare to announce every hour in the Market Square of Krakow, Poland. Fanfares were used along with drums on the battlefield to signal troops. When you go to hear the DSO. You will hear the *Fanfare to precede La Peri*, which is a ballet.
2. Play the *Fanfare to precede LaPeri,* (track on the enclosed CD) Ask students to imagine what this music is announcing that is exciting. Please remind them that there are no right or wrong answers.
3. Challenge the students to make two lists – one that describes the music (loud, soft, fast, slow, instruments used, etc.) and one that the students think tells what is happening. Play music again.
4. Break into small groups and write a short poem that uses some of the words listed while listening to the piece.

Culminating Activity

Have each group share their poem with the rest of the class.

Extension Activity

Play other fanfares for the students. Examples that may easily be found on youtube are:
Mendelssohn's Wedding March – play the first 9 seconds

Olympic Fanfare by John Williams – play the first 25 seconds

Procession of Nobles by Rimsky-Korsakov – play the first 30 seconds

Ask students to compare these fanfares with the one they will hear the DSO play. Are the instruments the same? Is the mood similar or different? Do they like one more than another?