

MUS 735

Discussion - Hitchcock, Chapter 2

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**Choose three examples from the compositions discussed and post links to performances. Explain how you could incorporate them into a program and why they would be successful with your ensemble/solo student performer.**

The theme for my program would be "Frontier," in which I would paint a portrait of early America. We would open with the Star Spangled Banner, discussing its origin from the English drinking song "To Anacreon in Heaven." I believe the Star Spangled Banner is a fitting opening to any concert, and I really enjoy this arrangement by Rob Romeyn:

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/product-media.jsp?productID=11206767>

I would also program "A Cowboy Symphony," by Pierre La Plante. In this piece, La Plante arranges several early American folk tunes into a two-movement work. The folk tunes include *The Girl I Left Behind Me*, *Buffalo Gals*, *Golden Slippers*, *Skip to My Lou*, *Soldier's Joy* (from *Hitchcock*, page 35), and more. A record is available here:

<https://barnhouse.com/sample.php?action=listen-view&sku=LDP-7071-00&hash=3ce9ebe179d7c740c4c4f24674e12916d5c9527d0e9a0ade9c5f35bc0aaf5f22>

I would also include music from other countries that helped shape secular music of the early Federal period. Hitchcock discusses the influence of English, Irish and Scottish music, mentioning the Irish folk song "The Irish Washerwoman." I would choose the piece "Two Irish Favorites" by Nancy Seward. This piece combines two Irish folk songs: *Rose of Tralee*, and *The Irish Washerwoman*. This would work well for my ensemble, as it would provide a nice contrast of lyrical playing in 3/4 time and an energetic 6/8 ending.

<http://www.wjpublications.com/wj/product-media.jsp?productID=2321099>

I would conclude the program with Yankee Doodle, as it is a very recognizable patriotic tune. While almost everyone has heard the tune, they might not know that this tune started as an English melody, meant to mock the American "Yankees." It was later modified by Americans as a song of opposition, nodding to their general George Washington. This arrangement, entitled "Yankee Doodle Bandy," includes snippets of future band staples from Sousa, Grainger, Holst, and others, and it really ties them together nicely.

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/product-media.jsp?productID=10909633>

I believe these selections would work well for my ensemble, and they would be successful in helping my students learn more about the history and influence of other countries in shaping early American music, which helped shape our current band repertoire. Though these selections are medley-heavy, they provide a wide variety of musical styles, and I find them to be interesting and varied.