

FOR TEACHERS



The Waters of Rupert's Land (music selections)

In 1995 Hudson's Bay Company commissioned Manitoba folk group *Simpson's Folly* to record an album of music to celebrate the Company's 325th anniversary. *The Waters of Rupert's Land* is the result. A collection of instrumental versions of pieces popular in the 19th century, many of the selections are traditional ones that would have been well-known to the settlers and traders at Red River. Four selections are presented here:

- **Arran Boat Song:** aka "Queen Mary's Escape from Lochleven", c. 1774. Some versions have words, but this is more often performed as an instrumental piece.
- **Jock O'Hazeldean:** a version of a traditional Scots ballad by Sir Walter Scott (1814) that tells the story of a maiden's stubborn refusal to give up her true love.
- **Lord Franklin:** aka "Lady Franklin's Lament" or "The Sailor's Dream" is a ballad commemorating the loss of Sir John Franklin's British Arctic Expedition of 1845. Author unknown, c. 1852.
- **Southwind Waltz:** 18th c.

Simpson's Folly is a Winnipeg-based folk group which plays period music of the late 18th to mid 19th centuries. The group's name is taken from the one given by the inhabitants of Red River to the large 'stone fort' - Lower Fort Garry - built by HBC Inland Governor Sir George Simpson in 1830. Located thirty-two kilometres north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, site of the original (Upper) Fort Garry, the stone fort was built to avoid the periodic floods that beset the first fort's site at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Sir George expected that the new fort would draw business away from the old, and that a new settlement there would surpass the original. He was wrong - which is why the locals dubbed Lower Fort Garry "Simpson's Folly".

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Concept Personal and Analytical Responses to Music

Task

Students listen to Simpson's Folly's version of two traditional ballads, Jock (John) O'Hazeldean, and Lord Franklin. In a class discussion after each piece, students share their responses.

Questions to Guide Students' Thinking

- What do you think of when you hear this music?
- What instruments could you hear? Why do you think these instruments were chosen?
- Have you heard this type of music before? If so, where?

In pairs, students choose one of the pieces discussed in class and research online two renditions with accompanying lyrics (Both these ballads have been recorded by several artists).

Questions to Guide Students' Thinking

- What are the lyrics about?
- How are the pieces you have selected the same?
- How are they different?
- What emotions does each piece evoke?
- Which piece do you prefer?

Students decide how to communicate and share the comparison they have made. They could:

- use a graphic organizer.
- conduct an interview with their partner.
- prepare and read a musical commentary for TV, analyzing the pieces.
- play the role of judges at a competition who must decide which piece is of the best quality.

Concept Elements of Music

Task

Students listen to all four pieces of music. As a class, students identify the rhythm in the piece after it is played.

Questions to Guide Students' Thinking

- What piece of music does the rhythm in this piece remind you of?
- If you were a conductor, how would direct musicians to play this piece?

In groups of four, students choose one of the pieces to accompany in some rhythmical fashion. They could:

- use instruments they have available.
- use found objects.
- use their voices, feet, or hands.

Jock o' Hazeldean

'Why weep ye by the tide, ladie,
Why weep ye by the tide?
I'll wed ye to my youngest son,
And ye shall be his bride:
And ye shall be his bride, ladie
Sae comely to be seen' -
But aye she loot the tears down fa'
For Jock o' Hazeldean.

'A chain of gold ye shall not lack,
Nor braid to bind you hair,
Nor mettled hound, nor managed hawk,
Nor palfrey fresh and fair.
And you, the fairest of them a'
Shall ride our forest queen.'
But aye she loot the tears down fa'
For Jock o' Hazeldean.

'Now let this wilfu' grief be done,
And dry that cheek so pale;
Young Frank is chief of Errington,
And lord of Langley-dale;
His step is first in peaceful ha',
His sword is battle keen' -
But aye she loot the tears down fa'
Foe Jock of Hazeldean.

The kirk was deck'd at morning tide,
The tapers glimmer'd fair.
The priest and bridegroom wait the bride,
And dame and knight are there.
They sought her baith by bower and ha'
The ladie was not seen.
She's o'er the border and awa',
Wi' Jock o' Hazeldean!

Meaning of unusual words:

aye=always

loot=let

Lord Franklin *(Traditional)*

It was homeward bound one night on the deep
Swinging in my hammock I fell asleep
I dreamed the dream and I thought it true
Concerning Franklin and his gallant crew

With a hundred seamen he sailed away
The frozen ocean in the month of May
To seek a passage around the pole
Where we poor seamen do sometimes go

Through cruel hardships they vainly strove
Their ship on mountains with ice was drove
Only the Eskimo in his skin canoe
Was the only one that ever came through

In Baffin Bay where the whalefish blow
The fate of Franklin no man may know
The fate of Franklin no tongue can tell
Lord Franklin along with his sailors do dwell

And now my burden it gives me pain
For my long lost Franklin I'd cross the main
Ten thousand guineas would I freely give
To say on earth that my Franklin do live