

### Activity 3 – Romance and Violence

#### Objective:

Students will compare and contrast two sets of excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and Bernstein's *West Side Story* using Venn diagrams.

#### Materials:

- Pencil and paper
- Two Venn Diagram worksheets – “Romantic” and “Violent”
- Concert playlist

#### Lesson Sequence:

1. Have students make two columns on a piece of paper – one for Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* (Track 6 on Spotify playlist) and one for Bernstein's *Somewhere* (Track 9).
2. Listen to each selection. Ask students to write down any words or phrases that describe the music, encouraging them to be as creative as possible. Categories to think about may include:
  - What instruments are playing?
  - Tempo: fast, slow, medium?
  - Dynamic: loud, soft, in between? Does it stay the same or change?
  - Style: smooth, jagged, elegant, exciting, gentle, wild?
  - What emotions do you feel?
3. After they have completed their lists, hand out the “Romantic” Venn Diagram worksheet. Ask students to find elements from their lists that are **the same or similar** for both pieces and write them in the overlapping space between the two circles. Elements that only apply to one piece or the other can be written in the outer part of each circle. You may wish to play each track again while they do this, asking students to listen carefully for the similarities and differences this time.
4. Once students have filled out the diagrams, compare and discuss what students found similar and different about the two pieces. As a group, find the elements to answer the question at the bottom of the sheet – What makes both pieces sound **ROMANTIC**?
5. In the same session or in another class period, repeat the activity with Prokofiev's *Death of Tybalt* (Track 7) and Bernstein's *Rumble* (Track 8) and the corresponding Venn Diagram worksheet.
6. After completing both, compare the elements that made music sound **romantic** in two different pieces with the elements that made music sound **violent**. How do both of these types of music help tell the story of Romeo and Juliet?