



## HELLO GOLD MOUNTAIN CLASSROOM GUIDE



Dear Teacher,

We are excited to have your class join the symphony for our upcoming concert! For many students, it will be their first time seeing a live orchestral concert. Included is information about the instruments students will see and hear.

This guide has information regarding *Hello Gold Mountain*, the featured piece in the program as well as the composer and soloist. We encourage you to explore these articles and activities with students prior to the concert.

Our study guide provides pre and post concert discussion topics and activities for a variety of age levels. Please feel free to be creative and explore these ideas in a way that is meaningful to your students. We hope you enjoy the concert!

Friday, February 24, 2023 | Mount Baker Theatre



EXPERIENCE  
music

LIVE

2022  
2023



## HELLO GOLD MOUNTAIN CLASSROOM GUIDE



**The Bellingham Symphony Orchestra will be featuring excerpts from the work *Hello Gold Mountain* with the composer and soloist Wu Fei joining us on stage. We are excited you will be joining us!**

The Bellingham Symphony Orchestra will be featuring music that transcends oppression while introducing students to the orchestra. This concert is geared for middle to high school-aged students, but all ages are welcome to attend. *Hello Gold Mountain* by composer and soloist Wu Fei tells the story of people in the Jewish community of Shanghai, exploring what was and could have been. The modern day requiem or piece in remembrance is an intriguing look at history through music. Students will learn directly from the composer as part of the concert experience. Come join us for this engaging way to introduce students to composition and let them see firsthand how the orchestra helps to create a meaningful story in an immersive and exciting experience.

*Hello Gold Mountain* features soloist Wu Fei on guzheng.



**EDUCATIONAL CONCERT** featuring  
Hello Gold Mountain  
BY WU FEI





## PRE CONCERT MEET THE ORCHESTRA



The Orchestra has four families:

- ☐ [Strings](#)
- ☐ [Woodwinds](#)
- ☐ [Brass](#)
- ☐ [Percussion](#)

The concert will feature instruments from each orchestral family. Each family of instruments produces sound in a different way, helping to define each group and bring beautiful and distinct sounds to the orchestra. There are a number of great websites with interactive links and activities for learning about the instruments. For more information about each instrument and to hear examples, please follow this [link](#). The [Seattle Symphony](#) has great introductory videos to instruments that are sensory friendly.

### Science & Sound:

For more information on the science of sound and creating your own resonating chamber, check out this page from The Kennedy Center on [Music and Science](#)! For middle school and high school students, check out this site on [sound production and physics](#).



**EDUCATIONAL CONCERT** *featuring*  
Hello Gold Mountain  
BY WU FEI





## PRE OR POST CONCERT GUZHENG & OUD



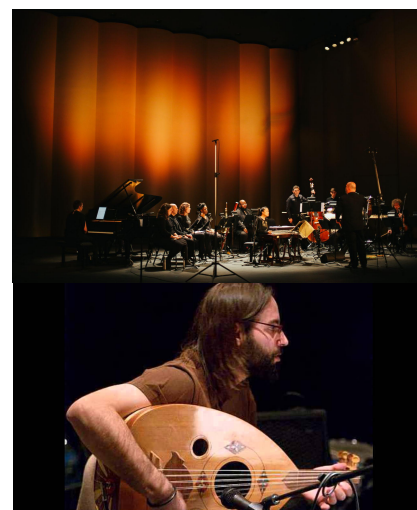
The solo instrument featured in this concert is not traditionally in the orchestra. Wu Fei plays a traditional Chinese zither called a guzheng. In *Hello Gold Mountain* this instrument represents the people of Shanghai. In the full piece, an oud, a guitar-like instrument, represents the Jewish people.

Learn more about the [guzheng here](#) or by [listening here](#).

Learn more about the [oud here](#).

### Questions:

- What do you wonder about the guzheng?
- What similarities do you notice between the instruments?
- What differences do you notice?
- Why do you think the composer Wu Fei chose to use the guzhengs in this piece?



**EDUCATIONAL CONCERT** featuring  
Hello Gold Mountain  
BY WU FEI







## PRE CONCERT HELLO GOLD MOUNTAIN



*Hello Gold Mountain* is a piece in remembrance of the Jewish refugees who fled Europe to Shanghai, China during WWII. The work explores the ideas of migration and lost possibilities. From composer Wu Fei, “Imagine if the Jewish composers of wartime Shanghai had stayed there, collaborated with local musicians, and learned local folk music? Imagine if these composers became a natural part of the landscape for Chinese musicians? Imagine if this collaboration lasted for generations and not just a number of years. That did not happen. Hello Gold Mountain is my attempt to write music that I think could have come out of the fascinating cultural possibilities of the Jewish presence in Shanghai.”

- [Official Trailer: Hello Gold Mountain 同舟](#)
- Hello Gold Mountain website - [hellogoldmountain.com](http://hellogoldmountain.com)
- Learn more about the composer Wu Fei and her work with the chatterbird ensemble through this video [here](#). The chatterbird ensemble is the original group that performed this work.

This piece is part of the BSO’s [Harmony from Discord series](#) featuring music that transcends oppression. Learn more about the piece and soloists [here](#).



**EDUCATIONAL CONCERT** *featuring*  
Hello Gold Mountain  
BY WU FEI





## PRE OR POST CONCERT REQUIEMS IN CLASSICAL MUSIC



A requiem is a piece that is in remembrance. Originally part of a mass, these works typically include voice. In *Hello Gold Mountain* Wu Fei and others sing, replacing the traditional vocal soloists and choir.

Many composers over the centuries have composed requiems including Mozart and Brahms. Want to hear more? The Bellingham Symphony Orchestra will be pairing *Hello Gold Mountain* with Mozart's *Requiem* as part of their concert [Harmony from Discord Meets Mozart's Requiem](#) on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 3pm at Mount Baker Theatre. That concert will feature the full orchestra along with two choirs and six soloists! Family friendly pricing is available through our Classical Kids, Take-A-Teen, and Student Rush programs.



**EDUCATIONAL CONCERT** featuring  
Hello Gold Mountain  
BY WU FEI





## PRE OR POST CONCERT IMPROVISATION & COMPOSING ACTIVITIES



Improvisation and composing are both creative ways for kids to get involved in music. You can have students compose their own music at [Classics for Kids](#) or with [Song Maker](#)! In *Hello Gold Mountain* the composer Wu Fei incorporates improvisation in her work.

The book *Max Found Two Sticks* by Brian Pickney tells the story of Max listening to the world around him and creating music based on the sounds he hears around him.

Have your students listen to their surroundings at school or at home. Next students can pick an instrument and create a short melody or rhythm based on what they heard. Have students play their sounds for each other. Feeling adventuresome? Students can listen to a classmates composition and improvise their own take on it OR have students create a picture of what they heard to accompany their short composition.

The symphony would love to hear the compositions or improvisations your students and class create! Please feel free to share your student's compositions with us and tell us what inspired your musical story. You can email videos, sound files, or links to: [programs@bellingshamsymphony.org](mailto:programs@bellingshamsymphony.org).



**EDUCATIONAL CONCERT** featuring  
*Hello Gold Mountain*  
BY WU FEI

