Music of Cuba & the Caribbean
A Smithsonian Folkways Lesson
Designed by: Roberta L. Stafford
Pennsbury School District

Summary:
Students will learn and perform the songs “Guantanamera,” and “Caribbean Carnival” with improvisation. Listening, analyzing and comparing traditional songs from Cuba and the Caribbean will allow students a window into the culture of these countries.

Suggested Grade Levels: 3-5
Country: Cuba
Region: Caribbean
Culture Group: Cuban, Caribbean
Genre: Cuban Son
Instruments: Voice, Band
Language: Spanish
Co-Curricular Areas: Social Studies, Spanish
National Standards: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Prerequisites: Students are receiving weekly group instruction (band lessons).

Objectives:
- Listen to recordings of “Guantanamera” and “Soneros Son”
- Locate Cuba on a world map
- Rehearse Concert Band arrangements of “Guantanamera” and “Caribbean Carnival” in weekly Band rehearsals

Materials:
- Smithsonian Folkways, “Guantanamera” by Grupo Moncada from Grupo Moncada Recorded Live in Boston (CAT. #MON00798)
  http://www.folkways.si.edu/grupo-moncada/recorded-live-in-boston/latin-world/music/album/smithsonian
- Smithsonian Folkways, “Soneros Son” by Estudiantina Invasora from Music of Cuba (CAT. #FW04064)
  http://www.folkways.si.edu/music-of-cuba/caribbean-latin-world/album/smithsonian

Lesson Segments:

1. **Guantanamera** (National Standards 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8)
2. **Music of the Caribbean** (National Standards 2, 5, 6, 7, 8)

1. **Guantanamera**
   - **Prerequisite:** Students are receiving weekly group instruction (band lessons)
   
   - **Objectives:**
     - Listen to a recording of “Guantanamera”
     - Discuss the lyrics of “Guantanamera”
     - Locate Cuba on a world map
     - Rehearse a Concert Band arrangement of “Guantanamera” in weekly band rehearsals
     - Improvise over the rhythmic riff in the concert band arrangement of “Guantanamera.”

   - **Materials:**
     - Smithsonian Folkways, “Guantanamera” by Grupo Moncada from *Grupo Moncada Recorded Live in Boston* (CAT. #MON00798) [http://www.folkways.si.edu/tribal-music/album/album/smithsonian](http://www.folkways.si.edu/tribal-music/album/album/smithsonian)

   - **Procedure:**
     a. Listen to the recording (in lessons).
     b. Discuss translation of “Guantanamera” – woman from Guantanamo.
     c. Students will locate Guantanamo, Cuba on a world map.
     d. Rehearse concert band arrangement in weekly band rehearsals.
     e. Introduce simple improvisation over the rhythmic riff in the arrangement using call and response (lessons and band rehearsals).

   **Assessment:** Students will perform the concert band arrangement of “Guantanamera” at the Spring Concert.

2. **Music of the Caribbean**
   - **Prerequisite:** Students are receiving weekly group instruction (band lessons)

   - **Objectives:**
     - Listen to an authentic recording of “Mazurka,” an authentic example of Caribbean folk music
     - Locate the Caribbean on a world map
     - Rehearse a Concert Band arrangement of “Caribbean Carnival” in weekly Band rehearsals
• **Materials:**
  o Smithsonian Folkways, “Mazurka” by Various Artists from *Caribbean Folk Music, Vol. 1* (CAT. #FW04533)  
    [http://www.folkways.si.edu/caribbean-folk-music-vol-1/world/album/smithsonian](http://www.folkways.si.edu/caribbean-folk-music-vol-1/world/album/smithsonian)
  o Concert Band arrangement of “Caribbean Carnival,” by David Bobrowitz, Grand Mesa Music, Level “Easy.”

• **Procedure:**
  a. Listen to the recording (in lessons).
  b. Students will locate the Caribbean on a world map.
  c. Rehearse Concert Band arrangement in weekly rehearsals.

**Assessment:** Students will perform a concert band arrangement of “Caribbean Carnival”.