

Lesson Plan By Alice Asako Walle

Listen

Reaching Out was written during the pandemic in 2021 when there still was no vaccine available. Composer, Ileana Perez Velazquez, wrote this piece to express her feelings while she was isolated on an island with her family.

- 1) Listen to the piece and write down what emotions you think Velazquez is expressing? Use the feelings chart below to help list as many as you.
- 2) How does Velazquez convey these emotions musically? (Hint: Listen for sections where the tempo, dynamics, rhythm changes).
- 3) Can you relate to Velazquez' response to the pandemic?





LISTEN – Educational Activities to accompany *Reaching Out* by composer Ileana Perez Velazquez

Feeling	How was it conveyed musically?	Can you relate to this with your own experience with the pandemic?



LISTEN – Educational Activities to accompany *Reaching Out* by composer Ileana Perez Velazquez

Dig Deeper

Music gives people the opportunity to tell a story. Many composers use music as their medium of expressing their feelings and thoughts. Composer Gustav Holst wrote “Ode to Death” in 1918-1919 in the wake of World War I. He received a medical exemption from military service and survived the war but had close friends who served and died in the horrific combat. Listen to “Ode to Death” and write down what emotions you think Holst is expressing in his piece? What in the music suggests this? (Hint: Listen for instrumentation, dynamics, tempo, rhythm changes).

Feeling	How was it conveyed musically?



LISTEN – Educational Activities to accompany *Reaching Out* by composer Ileana Perez Velazquez

Create and Make

As reflected in Velazquez and Holst's music, music can be inspired by events current and historical that is significant to the composer. Think of an important event in your life. How would you compose your piece to illustrate this event? Think like a storyteller and lead the audience in your emotional journey. Use the brainstorming chart to help guide you in your composition.

The Event I am composing about is: _____	
Instrument(s) included:	
Emotions I want to convey are:	
How will you begin:	What mood? What tempo? What instruments? What dynamic(s)?
Middle section:	What mood? What tempo? What instruments? What dynamic(s)?
Ending:	What mood? What tempo?



LISTEN – Educational Activities to accompany *Reaching Out* by composer Ileana Perez Velazquez

	What instruments? What dynamic(s)?
What is the main message of the piece?	
Other notes:	

Extra Challenge: Illustrate your Musical Composition

Paint or Color an illustration to represent the piece. The brainstorming chart you filled out may help you decide what colors and shapes are best to use. Make sure the artwork illustrates the emotions expressed in your musical composition.