Happy 4th of July!

This booklet of musical notes and activities for seniors is brought to you by the Evanston Symphony Orchestra, Evanston’s own community orchestra. We’ve based this activity booklet on the ESO’s KidNotes, which we write for middle school kids for each of our concerts – but adults love them, too! We’ve included a couple of articles specifically for July 4th plus a variety of puzzles and some really bad jokes and puns. We’ve also continued the KidNotes tradition of doing something fun with the letter “O” in the banner! We hope you enjoy this very first edition of HighNotes!

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July 4, 2020
The U.S. Marine Band - "The President's Own"

Established by Act of Congress on July 11, 1798, the United States Marine Band is the oldest of the U.S. military bands and the oldest professional musical organization in the country. It is also one of the finest. The Band's association with the Chief Executive began when President John Adams asked the band to play in the newly-built White House on New Year's Day in 1801. Later that same year Thomas Jefferson asked the Band to play at his presidential inauguration; the Marine Band has played at every United States presidential inauguration since. Jefferson himself dubbed them "The President's Own," a title they still proudly hold 219 years later.

The U.S. Marine Band is also unique in that it is the only military band whose recruits are exempt from basic training. They are all professional musicians and, unlike their counterparts in the other military bands, can't be called up for combat. Their job is to play at official functions and inspire the country through music. However, they are indeed a military unit and must have a disciplined military appearance. That discipline is the job of the Drum Major, a career Marine selected from the Marine Corps field bands who is responsible for the military development of the Band's members. (You can recognize the Drum Major. When the band is marching, he or she is the one out in front carrying a mace – a long stick with a metal ball on top – and, if the event is a very formal one, wearing a tall bearskin hat.)

The most famous of the Marine Band's directors was John Phillip Sousa, who led the band from 1880 until 1892. Sousa was actually a member of the Band twice. On June 9, 1868, when Sousa was just 13, his father, a trombonist in the Marine Band, enlisted him in the United States Marine Corps as an apprentice musician to keep him from joining a circus band! In official records, his rank was listed as "Boy". He re-enlisted on July 8, 1872, at age 17, was promoted to Musician, and played with the Band for three more years, leaving in 1875 at age 20. A mere five years later, however, he returned as its Director.

Under Sousa's leadership, the Marine Band became the premier military band in the United States. The Columbia Phonograph Company produced 60 recordings of the Marine Band conducted by Sousa. The recordings, along with two tours in 1891 and 1892, led to Sousa becoming famous nationally. During his time with the Band, he composed several of his famous marches including The Washington Post and Semper Fidelis, which remain staples of marching bands to this day. His most famous march, though, is The Stars and Stripes Forever, composed in 1896, four years after he left the Marine Band. It was declared the official National March of the United States of America by an Act of Congress in 1987. Sousa is known as "The March King" for good reason!

The "sousaphone" is another of Sousa's contributions to band music. He wanted a tuba that could sound upward and over the band whether its player was seated or marching, thus the huge bell looming over all other instruments. You can certainly hear it! Oompa!

To close on a fun note: Alicia Eisenstadt, who was the ESO's assistant principal trumpet from 2011 to 2014 while getting her degree in trumpet, got her first job in 2014 in the Marine Band – and is still there! One of the ESO's own is now one of "The President's Own!"
China takes credit for the invention of fireworks in about 900 CE. The story goes that a cook mixed together some common kitchen ingredients and lit the mixture – by mistake. The flames were in wonderful colors. He then figured out that if he put the same mixture in a hollow bamboo tube, there would be a really big bang when he lit it. Kaboom! He’d invented fireworks!

After first being used just for entertainment, this new technology became an important part of celebrations because the Chinese believed that such a loud noise would chase away evil spirits. They then perfected the recipe for gunpowder and found that it could be used to shoot rockets. Starting in the 700’s, they made hand-carved wooden rockets shaped like dragons that could shoot rocket-powered arrows from their mouths. This 1200-year-old technology is still the principle behind rocket-powered fireworks today!

Marco Polo is said to have brought pasta back to Italy from one of his many trips to China. It seems that he also brought back some fireworks, and Italy became one of the leading centers for fireworks in Europe.

Fireworks came to North America with the earliest immigrants to the British colonies and became part of celebrations here. In fact, pranksters in the colony of Rhode Island were such nuisances that the mischievous use of fireworks was banned as early as 1731. No doubt there were too many kids who thought it was funny to scare people and, most especially, horses!

You can thank John Adams, our second President, for making fireworks part of the Fourth of July.

The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776. The previous day, John Adams had written to his wife, the wonderful Abigail, that the day “will be the most memorable …in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding Generations as the great anniversary Festival…It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with…Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations [fireworks] from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.” Well said, Mr. Adams! Indeed, there were fireworks on succeeding July 4ths, even though full independence wouldn’t be assured until 1782.

In 1777, Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary in a manner we would find very familiar today: an official dinner for Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes (for the 13 States), speeches, prayers, music, parades and, of course, “illuminations.” Ships in port had red, white and blue bunting.

In 1778, from his headquarters in New Jersey, then-General George Washington marked July 4th with a double ration of rum for his soldiers, and across the Atlantic, Ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.

However, it wasn’t until 1870, almost 100 years after the first July 4th and in the aftermath of the U.S. Civil War, that Congress made Independence Day an official holiday.

Happy Fourth of July!
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) has been called the foremost Russian composer of the 19th century. From a very early age, he had an intense interest in music and, when he was 5, his mother began his music lessons. When he was 10, she took him to see a performance of *A Life for the Tsar*, the very first opera written with a Russian story line, Russian folk music and Russian dance. Tchaikovsky was a very sensitive boy and the opera made a lasting impression on him. He was so sensitive, in fact, that music often made him cry. For this reason, his parents made him pursue a career that was completely different from music: the law. Music was still his main passion, however, and finally won out over law when a friend got him a job teaching at the Moscow Conservatory.

While at the Conservatory, Tchaikovsky began composing. Even though much of his music was popular, some of the performers he wrote it for found it “impossible to play.” This happened with his B-flat piano concerto, which was dedicated originally to the friend who had gotten him the job at the Conservatory. Alas, his friend pronounced the concerto “unplayable.” His feelings deeply hurt, Tchaikovsky made major alterations in the work and rededicated it to a German pianist, who rewarded the courtesy by performing the concerto during his first concert tour of the USA. Some critics didn’t like Tchaikovsky’s other compositions either and the sensitive Tchaikovsky nursed his hurt feelings for the rest of his life, even memorizing an unfavorable review!

In 1876 Tchaikovsky started corresponding with a Madame Nadejda von Meck, a wealthy widow whose enthusiasm for his music led her to give him an allowance. The period was one of rich productivity for him. He wrote a number of operas, orchestral works and two of his most popular ballets, *Swan Lake* (1876) and *Sleeping Beauty* (1889). Fourteen years after she began the allowance, however, Mme. von Meck believed herself financially ruined by the payments. Although his other sources of income were by then enough to support him very well, Tchaikovsky was still that sensitive person whose feelings were easily hurt. Deeply wounded by the sudden defection of his patron without apparent reason, he never forgave her.

Tchaikovsky wrote his *1812 Overture* in 1880 to celebrate the victory of the Russians over the French during the Napoleonic Wars. However, things didn’t start out well for the Russians. The French won the Battle of Borodino on September 7, 1812, but with many casualties. Then they headed to Moscow, where they fully expected the Tsar to capitulate, but were met with a surprise: they found themselves in a barren and desolate city, with parts of it burned to the ground by the retreating Russian Army. There was little food to be found, and the fierce Russian winter would soon be upon them. They had no choice but to retreat, battling famine, disease, freezing weather and Russian fighters as they headed west. Even Napoleon had abandoned them by the time they reached Poland in December. The French “Grande Armée” had lost 90% of its troops. The Russians declared victory.

In the early 1880’s, three major celebrations were planned in Moscow, so a good friend and mentor of Tchaikovsky suggested he write a grand commemorative piece for use in the festivities. Tchaikovsky began work on the project on October 12, 1880, putting it together in a mere six weeks.

Organizers planned to have the overture performed in the square before a new cathedral, with a brass band to reinforce the orchestra, the bells of the cathedral, and all the others in downtown Moscow playing pealing bells on cue—and cannons,
fired from an electric switch panel to achieve the precision the musical score required.

Tchaikovsky apparently didn’t like all of the hoopla, though, because he complained to Mme von Meck that he was "...not a conductor of festival pieces" and that the Overture would be "...very loud and noisy, but [without] artistic merit, because I wrote it without warmth and without love." However, this mega-performance did not take place, possibly due in part to the over-ambitious plan but also to the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in March. The piece was finally performed in 1882 in a tent next to the unfinished cathedral. And, despite Tchaikovsky's complaints, it is this composition that would make the Tchaikovsky estate extremely wealthyindeed, as it is one of the most performed and recorded of his works.

So why has the 1812 Overture become an American tradition on the Fourth of July? Perhaps it's because we had our own War of 1812, but against the British – again. This "Second US War of Independence" began in 1812. In retaliation for a US attack on York, Ontario, the British invaded Washington and set fire to the White House in September of 1814, causing extensive damage.

As the British approached, President James Madison left the capital to meet with the U.S. generals. He asked First Lady Dolley Madison to gather important state papers and be prepared to leave the White House at any moment. The next day, Dolley and a few servants scanned the horizon with spyglasses, waiting for either the President or the British army to appear. As she saw troops gathering in the distance, Dolley decided to abandon the couple’s own belongings and instead saved a full-length portrait of former president George Washington from harm.

When the British arrived at the White House, they found the Madisons gone, safely away in Maryland. Soldiers reportedly sat down to eat a meal made of leftover food from the White House scullery using White House dishes and silver before ransacking the presidential mansion and setting it ablaze!

Battles raged in various parts of the US for the next three years. While we didn’t manage to annex Canada, we did manage to finally defeat the British in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. So – maybe it’s quite appropriate the we borrow music written to commemorate one “War of 1812” to celebrate both of our Wars of Independence from the British – our first that began in 1776 as well as our very own War of 1812.

On the other hand … the 1812 Overture has only been popularly known in the United States as a symbol of Independence Day since 1974, when Arthur Fiedler, legendary conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, chose it for the Pops’ Fourth of July Concert. The crowd loved it and a tradition was born. Whatever the reason, we don’t think Tchaikovsky would mind!

Tchaikovsky died on November 6, 1893, possibly of cholera, but no one is certain of his cause of death. He was an extremely complex person with many layers, somewhat like this Russian doll. His sensitivities may have made him very unhappy in his personal life, but they also helped him compose some of the most beautiful music we have today.

On a lighter note, The 1812 Overture was parodied by composer Malcolm Arnold in A Grand, Grand Overture. It features four rifles, three Hoover vacuum cleaners (two uprights in B♭ and one horizontal with detachable hose in C) and an electric floor polisher in E♭. Arnold dedicated his parody to President Herbert Hoover! There’s a very funny performance of it on YouTube with a dust-buster and someone vacuuming the stage!
The iconic Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC, was dedicated on May 30, 1922, and is chock full of symbolism and details for eagle-eyed visitors to discover. Architect Henry Bacon modeled the Memorial after the famous Parthenon in Athens, Greece, because he felt that a memorial dedicated to a man who defended democracy should echo the birthplace of democracy. The towering memorial is 190 feet long, 120 feet wide, 99 feet tall and constructed of Colorado marble. Thirty-six columns surround the landmark, each one representing a state in the Union at the time of Lincoln’s death.

Sculptor Daniel Chester French depicted the president as a worn but strong individual who had endured many hardships. He positioned Lincoln's hands in a manner that displayed his two leading qualities. One of the president's hands is clenched, representing his strength and determination to see the war through to a successful conclusion. The other hand is a more open, slightly more relaxed hand representing his compassionate, warm nature.

If you look closely at the inscription on the wall of the north chamber, you’ll even spot a typo in the text of Lincoln’s second inaugural address, where the sculptor carved ‘EUTURE’ instead of ‘FUTURE.’ Oops! The inscription has since been corrected, but the original mistake remains discernible.

Matchstick Puzzles!
Can you move just ONE matchstick to correct the mistake in these math problems? There may be more than one answer!

\[0 + 3 = 2\]
\[6 + 4 = 4\]
\[9 + 3 = 5\]
Rebus Puzzles!

A rebus is a puzzle made up of pictures with individual letters to depict words and/or phrases. For example, this picture of a fish colored red might be in a puzzle like this: "Don’t follow that clue! It’s a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___!(RED HERRING)

The rebus was a favorite form of heraldic expression used in the Middle Ages to denote surnames. The composition alludes to the name, profession or personal characteristics of the bearer, and speaks to the viewer “Non verbis, sed rebus,” which is the Latin expression for "not by words, but by things."

For instance, three fish meant (and still mean) the family name “Salmon” and a hammer and saw stands for the family name “Carpenter.” A rebus for King Richard the Lion-Hearted might have looked something like this. Can you figure it out?

To decode this rebus, you would have to know that the term for a mature stag was “hart.” We might not know this as a homonym for "heart" today, but folks in the Middle Ages would have had no problems figuring it out.

The crown and the lion speak for themselves, of course, while the money bag signifies wealth or a “richard,” the French term meaning a wealthy or rich person. (You may remember that, after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 by William the Conqueror, French became an official language in England, so it is not surprising that we have so many words of French origin in English. But that’s a topic for another time!)

Here are a few modern rebus puzzles. Can you solve them?

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Answers on page 17
1. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ was a sensitive Russian composer. He wrote The 1812 ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
2. John Philip ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ is known as “The March King.” His most famous march is The Stars and Stripes ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
3. The U.S. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Band was given the nickname “The President’s Own” by Thomas Jefferson.
4. James ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ was President during the U.S. War of 1812. First Lady ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ saved a famous portrait.
5. Arthur Fiedler was the conductor of the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Pops Orchestra.
6. President John Adams encouraged “illuminations at all Fourth of ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ celebrations. “Illuminations” is an old word for “___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___,” which were invented in ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
7. The ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Memorial has a typo carved in stone! Can also you find these instruments in the puzzle? Violin Oboe Harp Drum

Word Search Clues!

Word Search Puzzle!

Some important musical items (and people!) are hidden in this puzzle! Can you find them? Remember: Words can go across, up, down OR diagonally, AND backwards or forwards - 8 directions in all! And, can you find “OZ” at least 30 times?

F I R E W O R K S H Y M
O Z E Z Z N Z O A K E A
B V O N O O Z R S O L D
O O E T I N P V Z F L I
E Z S R I R O Z O S O S
Z O O L T K A R J M D O
B Z O Z I U E M U A R N
O I Z A Z V R O L D U O
V Z H O E O Z E Y A M Z
O C Z R Z N L O C N I L
T S O U S A Z A N I H C

How do we teach this younger generation about our skills? Put them in a room with a rotary phone, a stem-winding watch, and a TV with no remote (Add rabbit ears with tinfoil for more fun!) Then leave the directions in cursive...
Childhood memories can pop up at the strangest times, especially those memories of things we enjoyed as kids that aren’t around anymore. We came across a list called “Older Than Dirt,” which asked whether we remembered any of these items from way-back-when. We did! ALL of them! They brought back lots of memories! How about you? Do you have stories?

Clove, Beemans and Black Jack Chewing Gum

Butch Wax

Wax Soda Bottles with Sugar Water

Telephones with Party Lines? (Our number was 22-J and next door was 22-R!)

Matchstick Puzzles

6 + 4 = 4
9 + 3 = 5

Tchaikovsky Overture
Sousa Forever
Marine Madison
Dolley Boston
July Fireworks
China Lincoln

Rebus Puzzles
• Circle of friendship
• Walk around the block
• Rock around the clock
• Ship on the high seas
REALLY Bad Jokes...

If an orchestra plays music in a thunder storm, who is most likely to get hit by lightning?  
**The conductor**...  

What musical instrument from Spain helps you fish?  
**A cast-a-net**...  

Why don't eggs tell jokes?  
**They'd crack one another up!**  

How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?  
**Ten tickles!**  

Why did the math book look so sad?  
**Because of all its problems.**  

What do you call an inconsequential elephant?  
**An irrelephant.**  

What do you get from a pampered cow?  
**Spoiled milk.**  

Why did the scarecrow win an award?  
**Because he was outstanding in his field.**  

What do you call someone with no body and no nose?  
**Nobody knows.**