Narration for YPC

‘Freedom’

Orchestra *Star Spangled Banner* if normal part of YPC program

It is special to have selected students lead singing!

Conductor Introduces Falling Down Doodle

Welcome students and teachers! Our orchestra concert today begins with ‘Freedom’! Our *country* began with the idea of freedom—the freedom to make good choices, the freedom to work hard to make your dreams come true, and especially to make sure we treat all people equally. Every year we celebrate Veterans Day. We remember people who fought to make sure you and I would have freedom.

In 1775 a war was fought. Courageous people in the American 13 colonies dreamed of a country in which all people would be free. They wanted a country in which it would no longer matter where they had lived before coming to the new land, or how they worshiped, how much money they had, or the color of their skin. These people who called themselves **Patriots** fought against the mightiest country in the world—England!

Listen as the orchestra sounds create the danger and the fight when the mighty London Bridge meets our determined Yankee Doodle.

House lights still full—Joy and Donna in full Continental Uniforms in house—opposite sides—3-5 second drum roll orchestra snare

Joy: The year is 1775

Donna: The year is 1775…Trouble is brewing

**Orchestra begins Falling Down Doodle immediately after *Trouble is Brewing***

***Falling Down Doodle*** Donna and Joy make their way to stage and change instruments midway through piece (Joy rope tension drum to piano; Donna fife to flute)

**Fanfare for the Common Man** (comments by Conductor)

This stirring piece of music was written in 1942 by a great American composer, Aaron Copland. Through the music Copland is saying, we, each one of us, is common by birth..no one is more important than the next….we are all equal in America. AND each one of us has inside us, a hero; we ALL have freedom to make good choices. Let’s get to know the brass and percussion families of the orchestra. (Orchestra players demonstrate brass and percussion families—players have some fun with playing only mouthpieces etc. and excerpts students may know.) Listen how the percussion and brass musicians play their own parts well AND work together in this heroic piece of music.

**Variations on Simple Gifts** (Comments by Conductor)

The key to finding the hero in each of us, is finding the place that is just right for us; like finding what excites us. The Shakers believed we can find this excitement through learning, music, and art. Let’s get to know the strings and winds of the orchestra. (Introduce strings and woodwinds playing fun excerpts and reeds only etc.) Let’s listen to each of the instrument families as they play the melody. (Clarinet can introduce theme in piece).

Donna and Joy change costumes during Fanfare and Variations on Simple Gifts.

**Ulster-Scots:Voyage of Hope** Joy enters and introduces

People came to America from all over the world in search of Freedom. Some were Scottish people who lived in Ulster, Ireland. They were called Ulster-Scots. Bobby Fife was an Ulster-Scot. When he learned his family was leaving for America, he was told he could bring only one of his belongings. To his mother’s surprise, he chose the penny whistles his grandfather had given to him. Bobby and his family would cross the Atlantic Ocean and face great dangers before reaching their new home. Listen, in this music by Rob Kerr, you can hear his sadness as if it is carried off the cliffs by the wind. Pretty soon, you can hear his excitement of the great adventure in front of him.

Donna enters from side to play Ulster-Scots

Donna makes quick change of clothes…15 seconds or less.

**Johnny Appleseed**

Joy introduces Johnny Appleseed during Donna change and speaks during music. Who knows an American legend who loved apples? Yes! Johnny Appleseed, born John Chapman. Johnny Appleseed is what we call an archetype. An archetype is a person who works hard to learn everything they can and then helps others. An archetype is a model, like a hero! Johnny Appleseed traveled throughout New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana teaching people how to plant apple trees, how to treat one another, and how to live in peace. Johnny Appleseed Donna enters and begins with orchestra.

Joy during orchestra and piano interlude: Where is that Johnny boy? Outside Ma, with the trees! That boy, I declare. He knows what he loves and he’ll learn ev’ry last thing there is to know ‘bout it. He’ll make sumthing of himself one day.

Bit later in piece:

Joy: Look Ma, that man has a pot on his head. Now isn’t that clever. That’s Johnny Appleseed son! Havin that pot on his head saves his hands for doin and plantin. He’s savin the world one apple at a time!

Johnny Appleseed Prayer Donna speaks during orchestra and piano introduction I love to sleep out under the stars; it keeps me closer to my God. You know, I think tolerance is OK; I think acceptance is a whole lot better. Donna joins orchestra

Joy introduces Hoe Down:

Johnny loved when people ‘put down their hoes’ to dance together! Johnny’s Hoe Down!

Students clap with music.