

# Shifting the Symphony

## 1. Question & Research Task

From Billie Holiday to *Hairspray*, and even The Star-Spangled Banner, Baltimore has contributed great things to the world of music. We are home to the Peabody Institute, one of the most prestigious music schools in the country, and the city has inspired countless artists who have made their mark on the radio charts and Broadway stage alike.

One of our long-standing musical traditions is the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1916. As the city of Baltimore has gone through economic and cultural changes, the BSO has had to grow and adapt to maintain its standing as a respected institution. How have they managed to do this? What are ways that the BSO stands out in our community?



Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

Image Source: Wikimedia Commons

**In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:**

**How has the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra maintained relevance in Baltimore's changing culture?**

## 2. Information Sources

[BSO History](#)

[The Times They Are A-Changin'](#) (information on general trends in Orchestra, BSO is specifically mentioned)

[Disharmony as BSO Names First Woman Conductor](#)

[BSO Beethoven Webumentary](#)

[Roll Over, Beethoven](#)

[Marin Alsop Breaks the Glass Baton](#)

[Jonathan Hayward, BSO](#)

[Jonathan Hayward, BSO's First African American Conductor](#)

[BSO Series](#) (Look for Fusion and Off the Cuff) or view this [local news segment](#)



[Marin Alsop, now Music Director Laureate](#) (information on her innovative approach)

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# 3. Student Activity

Using [Cornell Notes](#), or another note taking strategy approved by your teacher, gather data from the sources provided on Slide 2.

Pay close attention to the following information in order to best complete the Student Activity on Slide 3:

- History of the BSO
- Impact Marin Alsop has had on the organization
  - Speak on the growth she has achieved over the course of her career and why her position is important and impressive.
- How the BSO is influenced by Baltimore’s changing culture (and vice versa)
- Involvement in the community
- New conductor Jonathan Hayward
  - Why is he important? What do you think he will bring to the BSO?



[Jonathan Hayward - New BSO Conductor](#)

Image Source: BSO Music.org

## 4. Assessment Activity

How has the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra maintained relevance in Baltimore's changing culture?

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra has had many homes, but since 1982 the BSO and the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall have been intertwined.

Using the criteria outlined [here](#), write a letter to, or create a presentation for, the City of Baltimore Planning Commission in which you convince them that, because of its association with the BSO, the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall should be designated as a City Landmark.

Use evidence from your readings to support your argument regarding the BSO's significance and the importance of the Meyerhoff. For help with letter format, scroll don to formal letter format on [Literacy Ideas](#).



# 5. Enrichment Activities

SLIDE NAVIGATION

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## WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE

### SHARE BY SECTOR



### WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

SEATS IN PARLIAMENT  
23% WOMEN



CEOS, FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES  
4% WOMEN

Image Source: UNWomen.org

Marin Alsop was the first woman to lead a major U.S. orchestra. As a woman in a male-dominated field, she faced different obstacles to get where she is today.

Check out information on these other women who were the first in their fields:

- [Dr. Antonia Novello](#)
- [Edith Wharton](#)
- [Madeleine Albright](#)
- [Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson](#)
- [Sarah Breedlove \(Madam C.J. Walker\)](#)
- [Halle Berry](#)
- [Laverne Cox](#)
- [Simone Manuel](#)
- [Misty Copeland](#)

Choose one of the women listed above and compare her career journey to that of Marin Alsop.

# 6. Teacher Resources

## Learning Standards Alignment

### [Maryland State Fine Arts Standards for Music](#)

**Anchor Standard 10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

**Anchor Standard 11:** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, historical context to deepen understanding.

### [Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy](#)

**Reading: 1.** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**Writing: 7.** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

**AASL Standards Framework for Learners** Inquire: Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.

Think: Learners display curiosity and initiative by:

I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.

Create: Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes:

I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.

Share: Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes:

I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.

Grow: Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by:

I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

### [P21 Framework: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student Outcomes](#)

**3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy:** Access information efficiently and effectively; Use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand.

**ICT Literacy:** Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information.

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## High School Instrumental Music

**Time Frame:** One 90-minute class periods

### Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- Have students use learning supports provided in any BCPS-licensed Digital Content from the [Apps Portal](#) included in this lesson. Refer to [Digital Content Snapshots & Support resources](#) for guidance as needed.
- Consider [using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature](#) to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology.
- You will need to view the videos prior to giving to students, to verify the links fit your unit, are still working, and are appropriate for your specific class or student.