



### **Using the Minnesota Orchestra's e | Tour: Europe 2006 with your students**

The Minnesota Orchestra's **e | Tour: Europe 2006** is organized according to city – Amsterdam, London, Edinburgh, Helsinki and Locarno, Switzerland. The content within each city segment focuses on the activities of the musicians on tour, the experience of performing at each festival, and explorations of fascinating bits of culture and the arts native to each city.

As you explore the e | Tour, you will find stories and photos of significant cultural icons which the orchestra members and staff encounter along the tour. These will include figures such as writer Anne Frank, painter Vincent Van Gogh, composer Jean Sibelius and more. Each of these vignettes will offer opportunities for further exploration and learning for your students. Many of these activities may help you meet various music, writing and literacy standards. We encourage you to delve into the site further and come up with other imaginative connections to enrich your classroom activities.

#### Navigation tips:

The e | Tour home page is structured along a horizontal timeline. Each city has a variety of icons which you can click on to access the corresponding content. Once you are inside a story or photo album, you have three choices for further navigation. One: click on the cityscape at the top of the page to access all content for that city. Two: click on the name of another city at the very top of the page to navigate to that content. Three: click on the e | Tour logo in the upper lefthand corner to return to the homepage.

Following are some suggestions for classroom activities based on the e | Tour. You will certainly discover many more suitable for your individual class.

#### Software Requirements

Minnesota Orchestra's e|Tour includes movies that require the QuickTime player in order to view. You can download the QuickTime player here: <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download>. If you do not have the QuickTime player, or cannot download it, you can still view most other portions of the site.

The Teachers Guide and news stories are in PDF format. You will need a pdf viewer like Acrobat Reader or Preview on the Mac. You can download Acrobat Reader here: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

## Anne Frank



Read about cellist Janet Horvath's very personal connection to people like Anne Frank and their experience in concentration camps during World War II. Use her story as a starting point for in-depth exploration of this topic. In addition to using Anne Frank's own *Diary of a Young Girl*, the Anne Frank Museum website offers a wealth of further resources.

Anne Frank Museum website

<http://www.annefrank.org/content.asp?PID=25&LID=2>

Only one short film (without sound) exists that shows Anne Frank at her home in Amsterdam. To view it, click here

(<http://www.annefrank.org/content.asp?PID=475&LID=2>)

## Vincent Van Gogh



There are a number of images of paintings by Vincent Van Gogh in a photo album housed in the Amsterdam section of the website. You can use them as a starting place for discussing different schools of visual art, using Van Gogh as a central example of the post-impressionism movement.

Links:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent\\_Van\\_Gogh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_Van_Gogh)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-impressionism>

Compare to work of another famous Dutch artist – Rembrandt:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-impressionism>

Van Gogh museum:

<http://www3.vangoghmuseum.nl/vgm/index.jsp>

Coloring pages:

[http://www3.vangoghmuseum.nl/vgm/index.jsp?page=270&lang=en&section=sectie\\_kinderen](http://www3.vangoghmuseum.nl/vgm/index.jsp?page=270&lang=en&section=sectie_kinderen)

## Jean Sibelius



Jean Sibelius is a national hero of epic proportions in Finland. His music gave voice to a nation and is embraced by musicians of all levels. Violinist Viktoria Mullova performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Orchestra in Helsinki. You and your students can read in the Helsinki section (<http://mnoch.mightymedia.com/HelsinkiSite/Helsinki/Helsinki.html>) about why that was a particularly special concert for she and Osmo Vänskä. Then, to illustrate how widespread the appeal of Sibelius's music is, watch the video of a young street musician performing the same concerto at a public market near the harbor in Helsinki.

To make the music of Sibelius your own, look for the *Song of Peace* from the final movement of his orchestral work *Finlandia* which is often included in school music books. After singing it as a class, open a discussion about its similarities and differences to our national anthem.

## Bed-in for Peace



The Orchestra stayed at the Amsterdam Hilton on this tour, which is the same hotel where, in March 1969, John Lennon and Yoko Ono declared their stay a “bed-in for peace.” Orchestra harpist Kathy Kienzle’s daughter, Laura (an intrepid reporter on several past tours), found the connection fascinating and wrote an article about it, which can be found [here](#). You can use this story as a departure point to discuss civil disobedience and how musicians, artists and celebrities often become involved in the political life of a country.

**Julie Serber**, a band director and music specialist in Robbinsdale, MN, offers some ideas for incorporating use of the e | Tour in her music classes.

Go online with a data projector connected to a lap-top computer so the class can see everything together. Offer handouts connected to the web site.

ideas for exploration:

- Geography: Map out the path the Minnesota Orchestra took. Study important facts and historical places connected to the cities visited.
- Reading: Have students take turns reading the material on-line to the class.
- Art: Research famous artists encountered by members of the Minnesota Orchestra
- View the Proms Concert and study some of the composers of the works the Orchestra performed. Highly recommend the use of the *Great Masters* courses, available on cds or dvds.

*Great Masters: Mahler—His Life and Music* available here:

<http://www.thegreatcourses.com/ttc/assets/coursedescriptions/756.asp?id=756&d=Great+Masters%3A+Mahler%97His+Life+and+Music&pc=Fine%20Arts%20and%20Music>

*Great Masters: Beethoven—His Life and Music* available here:

<http://www.thegreatcourses.com/ttc/assets/coursedescriptions/755.asp?id=755&d=Great+Masters%3A+Beethoven%26%238212%3BHis+Life+and+Music&pc=Fine%20Arts%20and%20Music>

- Instruments: Study the instruments viewed in the concert and write reports on them (range, tone qualities, performance characteristics, materials they are made out of, instrument families to which they belong)
- People: Learn some of the names of the key members of the Minnesota Orchestra. Are there any important educational materials these people have written (Janet Horvath) or are they involved in some special way in the community (Manny Laureano) Are there any other recordings listed to that members of the Minnesota Orchestra recorded? Perhaps other types of music as well. Reading musician biographies on the Minnesota Orchestra website <http://minnesotaorchestra.org/music/musicians.cfm> will give additional insight into each musician's background and other interests.