

EXPLORING MUSICAL STYLES

featuring

Bridge & Wolak



Michael Bridge, digital accordion
Kornel Wolak, clarinet

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Kornel Wolak (clarinet) and **Michael Bridge** (digital accordion) are an internationally acclaimed duo, pushing the limits of their instruments and musical styles into the 21st Century. Playing classical showpieces, jazz ballades, and fiery folk music, Bridge & Wolak began collaborating in 2012 and have since toured across Canada, Poland, France and Ecuador.

Fun-loving gentlemen (with seven degrees in music performance), they offer a complete suite of educational programming. With deft virtuosity, and endless wit, Bridge & Wolak have been called the “Victor Borges of the 21st Century.” In demand on three continents, they were nominated for the BC Touring Artist of the Year award in 2019.

“Watch and be amazed!” —CBC

Visit www.bridgewolak.com to read up on all things Bridge&Wolak!



As possibly the world’s **ONLY** clarinet and digital accordion duo, Bridge & Wolak arrange many of the pieces they perform.

How do you arrange music?

Unlike compositions, musical pieces that are conceived as a complete work written for a specific instrument or group of instruments, arrangements are pieces of music originally written for one instrument or group of instruments and then transcribed for another instrument.

ARRANGING PROJECT

Pick a piece of music (like your favorite song, or one of the pieces mentioned below) and arrange it for your instrument, voice, or found instruments.

Some tips for arranging music:

- Describe the images that come to mind first, then translate that to your instrument of choice
- Name the feelings and thoughts triggered by the imagery and sounds in the music, how do you produce those sounds?
 - Mimic the pacing and rhythm through word choice, sentence structure, and line breaks if you choose a song
 - Borrow the words, phrases or lines that resonate most, think of colours and characters this can translate to
 - Build on a theme or message, elaborate on your instrument

Share your arrangement!

1) What were some of the challenges in this project?

2) What musical tools did you use to arrange your piece (dynamics, pitch, rhythm, articulations)?

Bridge & Wolak play music from a variety of styles:

Film music



Film music can serve several purposes that are either important on the emotional side of the movie or help/enhance the storytelling. It is not only helpful but essential for any director/producer to keep the music in mind when planning/shooting the movie. For example, collages that practically don't work at all without film music can have a fantastic effect later with the appropriate music.



Classical

Classical music is art music produced or rooted in the traditions of Western culture, including both liturgical (religious) and secular music. It is music that has been composed by musicians who are trained in the art of writing music (composing) and written down in music notation so that other musicians can play it.

Folk



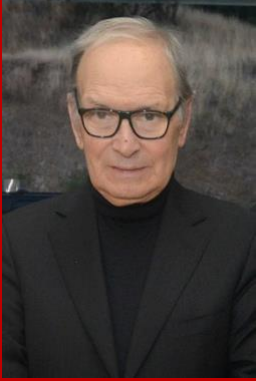
Generally rural music that originally was passed down through families and small social groups. Typically, folk music lives in oral tradition; it is learned through hearing rather than reading. It is functional in the sense that it is associated with other activities, and it is primarily rural in origin. It is most convenient as a designation of a type of music of Europe and the Americas.



Jazz

A music genre that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans, United States, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and developed from roots in blues and ragtime. Since the 1920s Jazz Age, jazz has become recognized as a major form of musical expression. Jazz is characterized by swing and blue notes, call and response vocals, polyrhythms and improvisation.

Ennio Morricone's "Love theme" from *Cinema Paradiso*



Cinema Paradiso is a 1988 Italian drama film. The plot of Cinema Paradiso is loosely based on the story of the Protti family, who have owned a movie theatre in Mantua, Italy, since 1904. The music for the film, including the "Love theme," was composed by Ennio Morricone – was an Italian composer, orchestrator, conductor, and trumpet player who wrote music in a wide range of styles.

Morricone composed more than 400 scores for cinema and television, as well as more than 100 classical works!



LISTENING



Watch [Bridge & Wolak's performance of "Love theme" from YouTube](#), or listen to the media files from the Debut Atlantic website, or listen to a piece of music or song on CBC Music, the internet, or from a CD.

Imagine you are a songwriter, write down lyrics that describe the music you hear.

Gankino Horo - traditional Bulgarian folk dance

Gankino Horo, arranged by Bridge & Wolak, is a very fast Bulgarian folk dance. It is danced by men & women in a circle, counter-clockwise, with their feet moving rapidly. But the most unique thing about this dance is its rhythm.

Most western pieces have 2, 3 or 4 beats in the measure... like a waltz [music: 1,2,3, 1,2,3] or a march [music:1,2, 1,2]. This piece has 11 beats to the bar!

To follow along while listening, clap or snap on all the 1's. [music, 1234 123 1234], to keep up with the rhythm!



LISTENING



Watch [Bridge & Wolak's performance of *Gankino Horo* on Youtube](#), or listen to the media files from the Debut Atlantic website.

Close your eyes and listen actively with your imagination.

Describe the mood/tempo/tonality.

What are some of the musical devices that are used that suggest a folk dance?

Petite Fleur by Sidney Bechet

Sidney Bechet was a unique figure in jazz history. A masterful soprano-saxophonist and clarinetist, he recorded the first significant jazz solos (other than pianists). Bechet, whose fiery personality was sometimes a liability, was invited to the Salle Pleyel Jazz Festival in Paris in 1949, caused a sensation, and decided to move permanently overseas. Within a couple years he was a major celebrity and a national hero in France, even though the general public in the U.S. never did know who he was. He wrote *Petite Fleur* during his time in France.



A master at both individual and collective improvisation within the genre of New Orleans jazz, Bechet was such a dominant player that trumpeters found it very difficult to play with him. Bechet wanted to play lead and it was up to the other horns to stay out of his way.



Watch [Bridge & Wolak's performance of Petite Fleur on Youtube](#), or listen to the media files from the Debut Atlantic website, or listen to a piece of music or song on CBC Music, the internet, or from a CD.

Profile an artist in an imagined interview

Write an “imagined interview,” working individually or in pairs, playing the part of both interviewer and interviewee. Complete the following steps:

1. Do your research on Sidney Bechet or an artist you selected
2. Prepare Your Questions: Consider your artist’s particular music and biography.
3. Conduct Your Imagined Interview: Based on your research — their background, their music and the way they speak — imagine how they might respond to your questions.

On a separate piece of paper, write an article on your chosen artist. You may choose to write your interview in a question and answer format, or create a narrative.