

ACTIVITY TWO

SOUNDS LIKE THE OLYMPICS

MUSIC PREVIEW TRACK

18: Olympic Fanfare and Theme - John Williams

STEP ONE

Hold a class discussion about the Olympics.

- ▶ What's the first thing students think of when they hear "Olympics?" What words describe the Olympics (race, big, important, summer, famous, etc.)?
- ▶ How would they explain the Olympics to people who have never seen or heard of them?
- ▶ Keep track of the words and descriptions on the board.

STEP TWO

Listen to the [Olympic Fanfare and Theme](#). Does

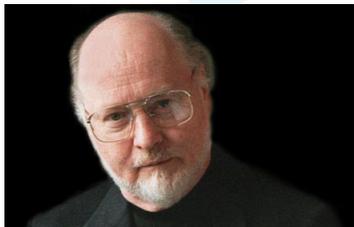
- ▶ Does this piece sound like the "The Olympics" to them?
- ▶ Review the words on the board. Which of those descriptors did they hear in the music? What part of the music makes it sound that way?

GEOGRAPHY EXTENSION

Individually or in small groups, have students research and present about past Olympics host countries.

STANDARDS

AZCCRS 3-8.SL.4, AZCCRS 3-8.L.5



JOHN WILLIAMS [b. 1932]

American John Williams is one of the world's most famous film composers. His most famous film scores are *Star Wars*, *Jaws*, *E.T. the Extraterrestrial*, and the first three *Harry Potter* films.

Born outside New York City, Williams studied piano, trombone, trumpet, and clarinet as a child, later attending the famous Juilliard School of Music. His career began with **orchestrating** (rewriting for orchestra) film music of other composers, and soon he was writing his own scores.



OLYMPIC FANFARE AND THEME [1984]

The L.A. Olympic Committee **commissioned** (requested a composition from) Williams, but the piece needed to incorporate the opening from another composer's work (Arnaud's *Bugler's Dream* had represented the U.S. Olympics since 1968) and had to feature herald trumpets, an instrument that can only play a few specific notes.

In writing this piece, Williams strived to represent musically "the spirit of cooperation, of heroic achievement, all the striving and preparation that go before the events and all the applause that comes after them."