**Elephants (5-7 minutes)**

Musical Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. deduce musical mood by literary cues
2. describe the music’s attributes, such as dynamics and pitch.

Common Core Objectives:

* RL.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
* RL.3.7 Explain how specific aspects of a text’s illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).
* RF.3.4 Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
* SL.3.2 Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Procedure:

1. Have a student read the poetry
   1. Talk about words that indicate the mood of the piece (mirth, jolly, laugh, relax, lazy)
   2. Ask about how they think it will sound. What are elephants like? Will it be slow or fast? Will it be loud or soft? Will it be happy or sad? Will it be high or low?
      1. What is high or low? Can someone sing a high note like a bird? Can someone sing a low note like the lion?
2. Watch the video of performance

Questions for Discussion:

* What did the pianists do that looked like an elephant?
* What makes the music sound like an elephant?
* Were the elephants happy?
* Workshops work on main melody vs secondary lines/harmony
* Are the elephants moving in time together, or are they all moving differently?

Ideas for Activities:

1. Movement activity! Put students in groups of 2 and 4. Pretend “synchronized swimming”
   * Use the clip beginning at 1:06 of only the ending for movement activity
   * Students should think on their own of their movements alone first.
   * pair up or square up/mirror images, knee-to-knee
   * join with the class

Assessment Template:

1. Were the students engaged and participating in the activity?
2. Did the students demonstrate an understanding of the literature?
3. Were most students able to recognize features of the music that represented the animal well?