



## Composer Pen Pal Project

### Research & Writing Activity

**Step 1:** Choose one of the composers featured on *Music in the Making*.



**Kathryn Bostic**



**Mason Bates**



**Nancy Galbraith**

Use your composer's website as a starting point to learn about them. Then conduct additional research to find out more. News articles, interviews, and program notes are all great places to start. How else can you learn about them? What do you want to know?

Organize your research plan here:

**Step 2:** Take notes about what you learn.

Document what you learn from your research. Make sure to include each of the following details and the source where you found the information:

- Where is the composer from?
- What types of music do they compose?
- How did they get into composing as a career?
- What is unique about their music?
- How have people responded to their music?

Record your research notes here – attach more pages if you need them:

### Step 3: Write a letter to find out more.

Once you have found out as much about your composer as possible, think about what you still don't know. What would you want to ask them? Write a letter to your composer. Introduce yourself, share what you find interesting about their work, and then ask them the questions you have.

Here's a template to help you get started – you can also change it to make it your own!

Dear [COMPOSER],

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a student at \_\_\_\_\_.

I have been learning about your work and noticed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I am wondering \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking time to read my letter!

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

**BONUS: Send your letter!** Mail your letter to your composer. Make sure to include a clear return address so they can write back to you. Remember to put a stamp on the envelope before you mail it!

### Mailing Addresses

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