



Mini-Lesson: Meet Composer Jodie Blackshaw

OVERVIEW

“Who created the work?” is the first essential question in the Facets Model. Students musicians learning a new work can learn important clues to the music by knowing about the composer. In this lesson, students will view the “Meet Jodie Blackshaw” PowerPoint, discuss what they found interesting about Blackshaw, her musical life, accomplishments, memorable events, and inspirations for creating new music. Students, either as individuals or in small groups, will then construct a *Composer Kaleidoscope* from these facts and details.

LEARNING GOAL

Students will be introduced to composer Jodie Blackshaw by viewing a biographical PowerPoint. They will select and organize key information and ideas about Blackshaw into a *Composer Kaleidoscope* to support their understanding and performance of the piece.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- PowerPoint or PDF slideshow *Meet Composer Jodie Blackshaw* included with this curriculum
- Copies of the [Composer Kaleidoscope](#) graphic organizer for students to complete
- Optional: teacher biography of Blackshaw (found in the Teacher’s Guide) for additional information

PROCESS

Decide if you will use the [Composer Kaleidoscope](#) as a group project or as an individual assignment to be done in class or as homework.

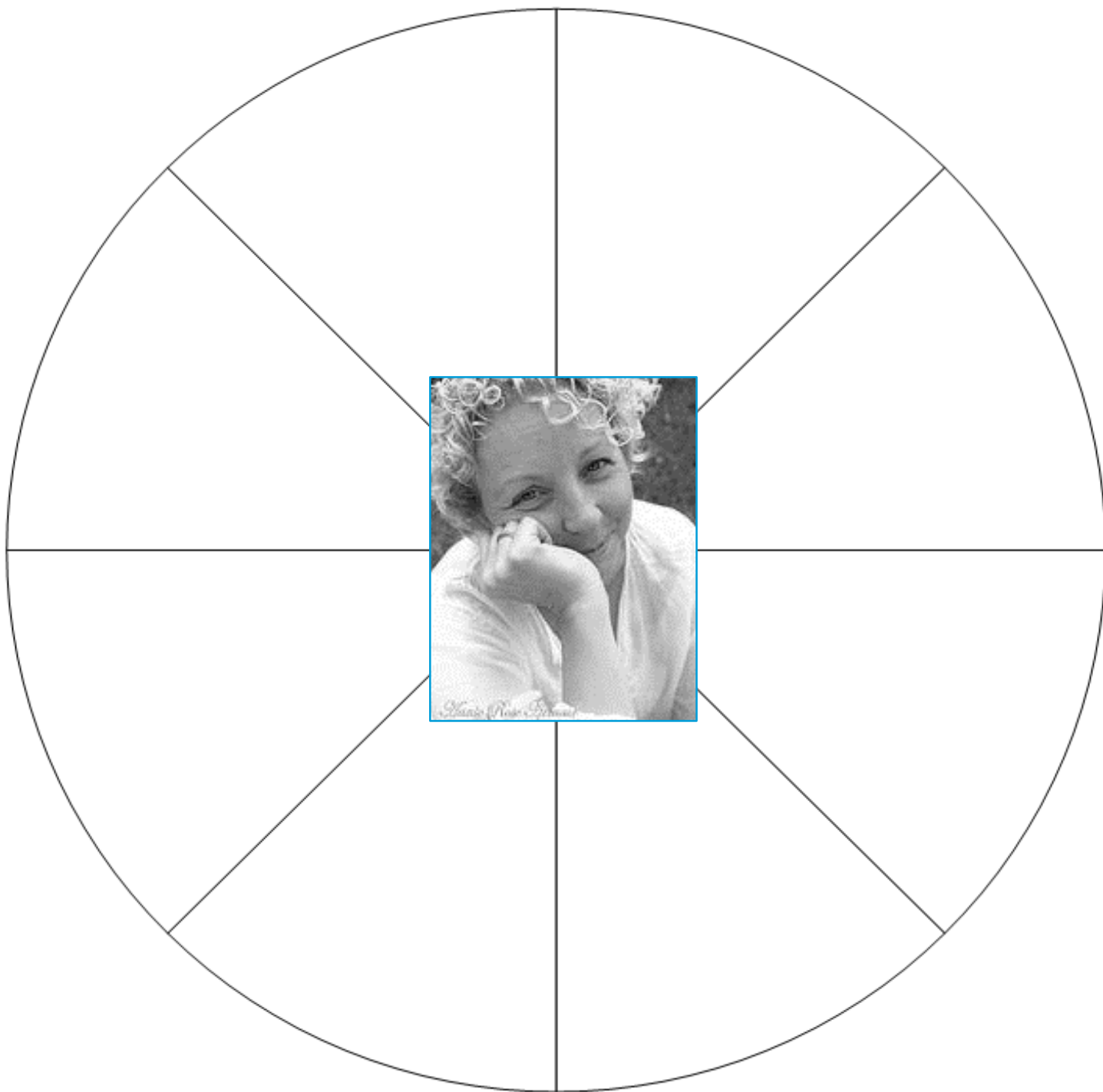
1. Before or early in your work on *Letter from Sado*, view the *Meet Composer Jodie Blackshaw* PowerPoint.
 - Before viewing, encourage students to take notes on information and facts they find interesting. They will use this information to complete summary of the composer’s life as a *Composer Kaleidoscope*.
 - And optional, additional step is to ask students to read the Jodie Blackshaw print biography found in the Information for Teachers section of this curriculum.
2. Distribute the graphic organizer after deciding if students will work alone, with a partner, or in small groups.
3. Ask students to read some of their *Composer Kaleidoscopes* out loud in class. Post all of them on the walls of the band room and at the concert when you perform *Letter from Sado*.

ASSESSMENT SUGGESTIONS

One could also use this activity near the end of working on *Letter from Sado* to assess students’ background knowledge about the composer and her connections to the music.

A COMPOSER KALEIDOSCOPE

Create a Composer Kaleidoscope from what you've learned about Jodie Blackshaw, composer of *Letter from Sado*. Write one thing you know or a piece of factual information in each section of the circle.



Name _____

Date _____

