

Steps Ahead: In a Nutshell

Student Edition

Use this compact teaching guide to introduce your students to the main facets of *Steps Ahead*. For a Listening Map, additional interdisciplinary lesson plans, musical composition lesson plans, and other resources for *Steps Ahead*, visit www.bandquest.org.

Rhythm Activity

1

Write counts under each of the notes. Use dashes to indicate notes longer than one beat and parentheses around the counts underneath rests. See the sample measure for an example.

Sample

1 + a 2 (+) 3 - 4 +

Warm-Ups: Horn in F

2

Meet the Composer: Michael Gandolfi

Taught himself to play the guitar when he was eight.

Studied music performance at Berklee College of Music, then composition at New England Conservatory – both in Boston, MA.

His sisters played Mozart and Beethoven on the piano, but he preferred jazz, blues, rock – and the Beatles.



Began composing as a teenager. He wrote music for any group of friends willing to play it. Today he still writes funk-rock pieces for fun.

Compositions reflect many genres; he blends their sounds into the music he writes for orchestras, bands and ensembles.

Science also influences his music. “The Garden of Cosmic Speculation” was inspired by a fantastic Scottish garden that incorporated physics into its’ design. It’s Gandolfi’s best known work to date.

Responding to the Music

Michael Gandolfi created a piece that suggest a walking journey with three destinations. Listen to a recording of part one of “Steps Ahead” and respond to these questions: **What’s going on in the music?** Can you **DESCRIBE** what you notice using musical terms? Write ideas/answers below.

Promenade	First Destination

SPECULATE about the First Destination. Where did the music take you? What did you notice when you looked around this “place?”
