



## 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?”

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