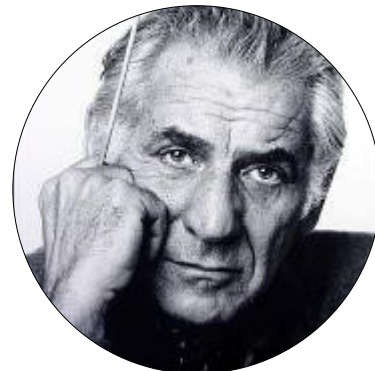


# LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918–1990)

## Candide Overture

**BIOGRAPHY:** Leonard Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, studied piano as a youngster and attended Harvard University, the Curtis Institute of Music and the Tanglewood Music Center. He became world-known as a conductor, a composer and a music educator and he developed the New York Philharmonic Young People's Concerts which were broadcast on television in 1958 and changed the way audiences learn and experience orchestral music. This program is the basis on which many orchestras develop their student and education concerts. In addition to being known for his Young People's Concerts, his music from *Candide* and *West Side Story* are beloved by many audiences. His music is lively and exuberant, matching his entertaining and adventurous spirit. [Read more about Bernstein on Classics for Kids.](#)



**REPERTOIRE NOTES:** *Candide* is an operetta based on the satirical novel by Voltaire which tells the story of separated lovers Candide and Cunégonde with wit and dark sarcasm. Written in 1956 and premiered on Broadway that December, the stage work did not immediately win over audiences compared to other stage works on Broadway at the time. However, the music, especially the overture, was very well received with audiences in orchestral performances. The overture incorporates several of the songs from *Candide* including the ballad “Oh Happy We” and the ending of Cunégonde’s aria “Glitter and Be Gay”. Opening the overture is a bright fanfare which reappears throughout. Even in its calmer moments, such as “Oh Happy We”, the overture keeps a sense of urgency, almost as if it’s constantly running away from its self.

## What is an “Overture”?

From the Musical Dictionary by [Classics for Kids](#): an **OVERTURE** is a piece of music played at the beginning of a play, opera or ballet in order to set the mood; also, an orchestral concert piece written as a single movement.

ANSWERS: Aria; Duet; *Varied* (ex. traveling, buying and home and items, having a family, etc); luxury items like jewelry; D; False; C; Young People's Concerts; C

# CANDIDE OVERTURE

The overture to *Candide* incorporates themes from music throughout the operetta including “The Best of All Possible Worlds”, “Battle Music”, “Oh Happy We” and “Glitter and Be Gay”. Listen to the overture on [Spotify](#) and see if you can follow along:

<b>0:00—0:37</b>	<b>Opening Fanfare</b>
<b>0:37—1:17</b>	<b>“Battle Music”</b>
<b>1:17—2:10</b>	<b>“Oh Happy We”</b>
<b>2:10—3:13</b>	<b>Return of three previous sections</b>
<b>3:13-3:44</b>	<b>“Glitter and Be Gay”</b>
<b>3:50—end</b>	<b>Closing finale</b>

You can also follow along with the percussion part [here](#)!

## Explore more:

Now that you’re familiar with the overture, listen to some of the featured music individually and answer the questions:

1. [Listen](#) to “Oh Happy We” and [follow along](#) with the lyrics
2. [Watch](#) “Glitter and Be Gay”, which may sound familiar around 2:34.

An [aria](#) is a solo vocal performance, common in opera. A [duet](#) is a musical performance with two people. Circle the correct type of performance for the following:

“Glitter and Be Gay”	ARIA	DUET
“Oh Happy We”	ARIA	DUET

When you listen to “Oh Happy We”, the lyrics are describing the type of future the main characters desire. What are some things they hope for?

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After watching, “Glitter and Be Gay”, what do you think the main character Cunégonde is singing about? (Hint: watch her actions and use of props)

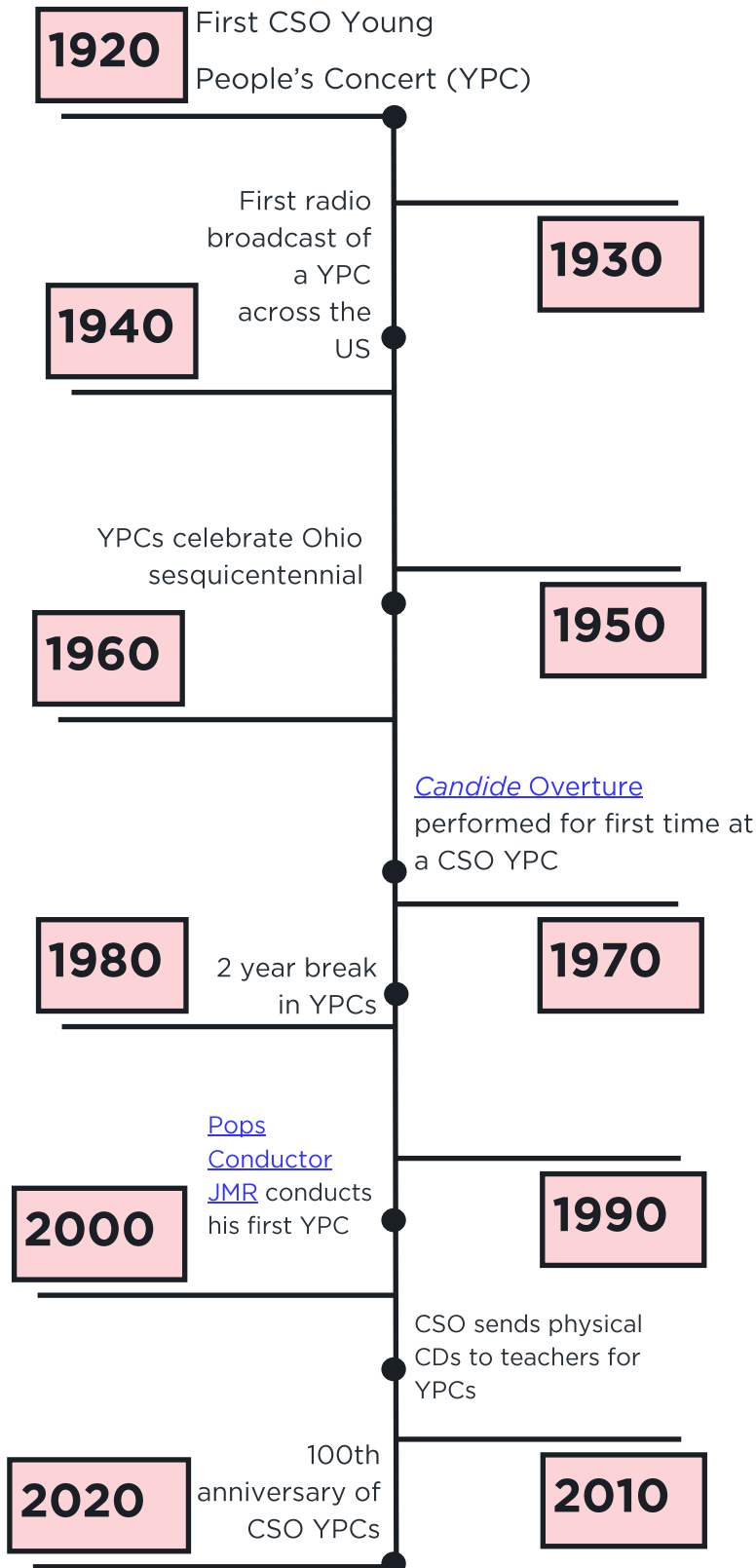
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# YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS 100TH ANNIVERSARY TIMELINE

Leonard Bernstein was a leader in creating educational concerts for students. Learn about the CSO's history with educational concerts using the timeline below, then answer the questions.

KEY ● Point on timeline that even occurred



## Multiple Choice Questions

Approximately when did the CSO take a break in producing Young People's Concerts?

- A. Early 1930's
- B. Late 2000's
- C. Early 1960's
- D. Late 1970's

True or False? The CSO performed *Candide Overture* in 1930.

TRUE

FALSE

Which of the following occurred between the 2 year break in YPCs and today?

- A. first radio broadcast of a YPC
- B. First performance of *Candide Overture* at a YPC
- C. JMR conducts his first YPC
- D. None of the above

What is "YPC" an abbreviation for?

\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge: Ohio was founded in 1803. What do you think a "sesquicentennial" means?

- A. 50 years
- B. 100 years
- C. 150 years
- D. 200 years