

CALIFORNIA BAND DIRECTOR ASSOCIATION  
2024 SOCIAL IMPACT CONSORTIUM

COMPANION CURRICULUM TO  
SHRUTHI RAJASEKAR'S V.O.C. - *Helmsman of the Sea*

*The following lesson plans have been designed as companion curricula to be taught alongside a school band's preparation of Shruthi Rajasekar's V.O.C. - Helmsman of the Sea.*

## GRADES 6-8 LESSONS

### LESSON 1: FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

#### OVERVIEW

This activity is designed to help students contextualize the piece and its subject (V.O.C.) by investigating the events leading up to the Indian Independence Movement and getting to know some of its most notable figures. Students will be asked to create color posters to share details about various Indian Freedom Fighters.

#### MATERIALS

Poster paper (or 8.5x11"); pencils/pens, markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons for illustrating.

#### CONTEXT

Similar to the Fourth of July in the United States, the country of India honors its struggle for freedom with its own Independence Day on August 15th. This holiday commemorates the date in 1947 when the Indian Independence Act took effect and began the legal process of Indian transitioning into a sovereign nation and out from British rule.

#### VIDEO: Indian Independence : 1947

*2.5 minute YouTube video by Mocomi Kids on the year of Indian Independence*

<https://youtu.be/ojpU-bYaqBk>



#### TASK

Divide the class into equal groups (2-5 students, preferably musicians who play different instruments). Assign each group an Indian Freedom Fighter to research. Students may complete their own research (in a library or on electronic devices) or base their research on the available information on their historical figure in this lesson plan. If the ensemble is especially large, additional groups may be invited to research more Indian Freedom Fighters who are not on the list.

Allow students time to complete their research and design and create their poster.

Posters can include but are not limited to:

- A full body or bust portrait of the subject
- Biographical information (birth/death years, place of birth, education or career, family details, cause of death)
- Contributions to Indian Independence Movement
- Other notable information

Following the completion of the Indian Freedom Fighter posters, invite the groups to introduce their historical figure to the class by sharing their poster and details about this person's life and contributions to the Indian Independence Movement.

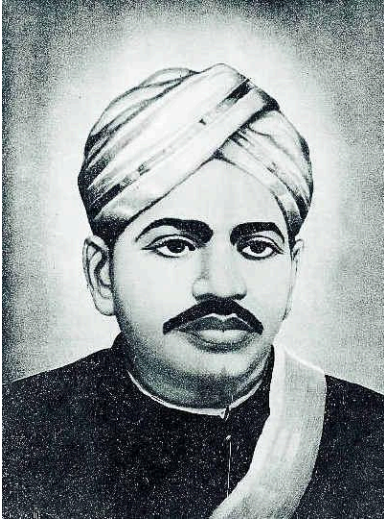
Consider hanging up the posters created by the ensemble either in the classroom for the duration of the concert cycle or in the concert venue for the audience to peruse as an informal and educational gallery.

**\*BONUS ACTIVITY\***

Encourage students to write melodies based on their group's Indian Freedom Fighter. These melodies can serve as "theme songs" for their historical figure in the same way the melodies of Shruthi Rajasekar's V.O.C. serve as thematic material that represents V. O. Chidambaram Pillai. Supply groups with manuscript paper and allow them to brainstorm what kind of musical structures and effects would depict their selected historical figure.

## VALLINAYAGAM OLAGANATHAN CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (V.O.C.) (1872 - 1936)

*Kappalottiya Tamizhan* ("Tamil Helmsman")



Vallinayagam Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai, affectionately known as V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, was a significant figure in the Indian Independence Movement. Born on September 5, 1872, in Ottapidaram, Tamil Nadu, V.O.C. was a dynamic leader with contributions to many fields.

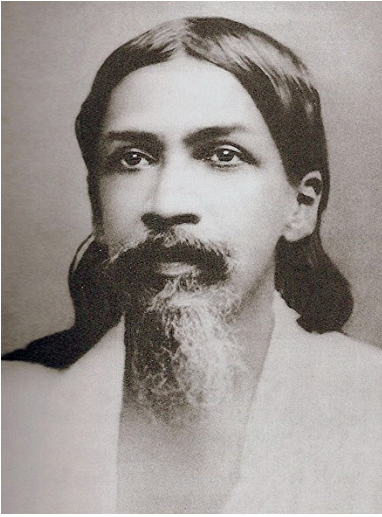
V.O.C. was not only a successful lawyer but also an entrepreneur and politician. In 1898, he founded the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company**, a groundbreaking venture that marked his commitment to self-reliance and economic independence for India from Britain.

His role in the Indian Independence Movement became prominent in the early 20th century during the **Swadeshi Movement**. V.O.C. actively advocated for the use of Indian goods and for boycotting British products. His efforts emphasized the importance of economic nationalism, highlighting the need for India to be self-sufficient if they were to successfully gain independence from

Britain.

V.O.C.'s unwavering commitment to the cause of India's freedom led to his arrest in 1908 during anti-British protests. Despite this and other challenges, he remained dedicated to India's freedom. V.O.C.'s legacy continues to inspire generations, showcasing the significance of economic self-reliance in the pursuit of independence. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's dynamic contributions make him a respected and influential figure in the history of India's struggle for freedom.

## SRI AUROBINDO (1872 - 1950)



Sri Aurobindo was born on August 15, 1872 in Kolkata, India and was a remarkable leader who played a crucial role in the Indian Independence Movement. He was not just a political figure but also a philosopher and spiritual teacher.

Educated in England, Aurobindo initially worked in the Indian Civil Service. However, his love for India's rich culture and spirituality led him to become a passionate advocate for independence from British rule. Aurobindo believed in a free India that embraced both its political and spiritual heritage.

In 1906, he joined the Nationalist movement and became a leader within the **Indian National Congress**. Aurobindo's writings, especially in his newspaper *Bande Mataram*, inspired people to unite against British oppression. His vision went beyond just political freedom; he emphasized the importance of spiritual awakening alongside independence.

In 1908, Aurobindo faced legal troubles due to his revolutionary activities, leading to imprisonment. However, even in jail, he continued to inspire through his writings. Aurobindo's time behind bars became a period of deep spiritual exploration.

Later in life, Aurobindo shifted his focus to spiritual practices and founded the **Sri Aurobindo Ashram** in Pondicherry, a sort of spiritual retreat where individuals from around the world could come learn from Aurobindo. His teachings attracted followers worldwide, emphasizing a blend of Eastern (mostly Indian) and Western (mostly European) philosophies.

Sri Aurobindo's contributions to the Indian Independence Movement and his vision of a harmonious, spiritually awakened world continue to inspire people, making him a revered figure in India's history.

## SURENDRANATH BANERJEE (1848 - 1925)

*Rashtraguru* ("Teacher of the Nation")



Surenranath Banerjee was born in Calcutta on November 10, 1848, and was a key figure in India's fight for independence. His early years were dedicated to education reform, where he established **Ripon College** in Calcutta, aiming to blend traditional Indian values with modern knowledge.

Banerjee's impactful role expanded into journalism when he founded **The Bengalee** in 1875. Through this newspaper, he voiced nationalist sentiments, using the power of the press to unite Indians and raise political awareness.

In the late 19th century, Banerjee played a vital role in forming the **Indian National Congress** (INC) in 1885, serving as its president twice. He believed in achieving political goals through constitutional means and negotiations with the colonial government. Banerjee's eloquence and passion for education lead to his being nicknamed **Rashtraguru**, "Teacher of the Nation".

Despite his focus on peaceful methods, Banerjee actively participated in public protests, including the anti-partition movement against the proposed division of Bengal in 1905. His ability to bridge moderate and radical elements showcased his understanding of diverse strategies within the independence movement.

Banerjee's contributions extended internationally as he attended conferences to garner global support for India's cause. In 1895, he was knighted by the British government due to his worldwide influence, but he later made the decision to return the honor in protest against oppressive colonial measures taking place in India.

Surenranath Banerjee's life teaches us about the complex nature of the independence movement, emphasizing his specific contributions to education, journalism, and diplomatic efforts. His indomitable spirit and commitment continued to inspire younger generations in India's journey toward freedom for many years after his death.

## BHIKAIJI CAMA (1861 - 1936)



Born in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1861, Bhikaiji Cama was a key figure in the Indian Independence Movement. Growing up, she was influenced by the ideas of freedom and equality during her education in England. Upon returning to India, Cama became a passionate advocate for the country's independence from British rule.

One of her notable contributions was at the International Socialist Congress in Germany in 1907, where she proudly unfurled the first version of the **Indian tricolor flag**. The flag symbolized India's aspiration for self-rule and featured green, saffron, and red stripes representing faith, courage, and sacrifice.

Cama's dedication extended to her work as an editor and writer for revolutionary publications like ***Bande Mataram*** and ***Madan's Talwar***. Through these platforms, she spread anti-colonial ideas and inspired people to join the freedom struggle.

Despite facing challenges and having to live in exile in Europe in 1909, Bhikaiji Cama continued her activism, collaborating with international supporters to raise awareness about India's plight. Her legacy lives on as a symbol of resilience and determination in the fight for India's freedom, inspiring future generations to value justice and equality. Bhikaiji Cama remains a crucial figure in the history of the Indian Independence Movement.

## MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI (1869 - 1948)

*Mahatma* ("Great-Souled" or "Saintly")



Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, in India and played a crucial role in the Indian independence movement, inspiring millions with his message of peace and nonviolence. Growing up in a loving family, Gandhi learned important values, such as truthfulness and compassion.

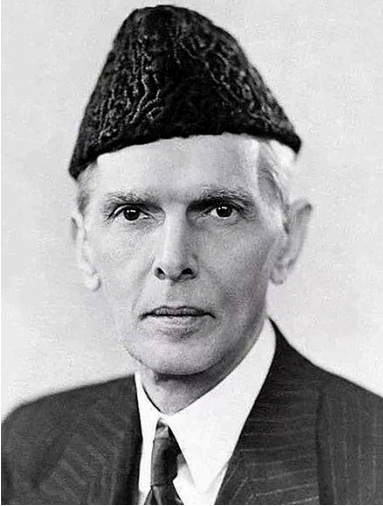
As a young man, Gandhi studied law in London and later worked as a lawyer in South Africa. It was there that he first started fighting against unfair treatment of Indians, experiencing discrimination himself. This experience shaped his belief in nonviolent resistance, which he called "**Satyagraha**."

Gandhi returned to India in 1915 and joined the **Indian National Congress**, where he became a leader in the fight against British rule. His most famous campaign, the **Salt March** in 1930, involved a long walk to the sea to protest the British monopoly on salt. Gandhi believed in the power of peaceful protests and encouraged people to resist injustice without using violence.

Gandhi's teachings inspired people across India to unite for their freedom. He led various movements, urging Indians to embrace simplicity and self-reliance. His dedication to truth and nonviolence earned him the title "**Mahatma**," meaning "great soul" or "saintly."

Finally, in 1947, India gained independence from British rule. Sadly, just a year later, on January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by someone who disagreed with his ideas. Despite his death, Gandhi's legacy lives on, reminding us that even one person can make a huge impact through kindness, truth, and the belief in a better world.

## MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH (1876 - 1948)



Muhammad Ali Jinnah was born on December 25, 1876, in Karachi (in modern-day Pakistan) and played a crucial role in the Indian Independence Movement and the creation of Pakistan. Initially a member of the **Indian National Congress**, Jinnah worked towards Hindu-Muslim unity. However, feeling that Muslim rights were not adequately protected, he later became the leader of the **All India Muslim League**.

Jinnah's significant contribution was advocating for the **Two-Nation Theory**, believing that Hindus and Muslims were distinct nations with separate identities. This idea became the foundation for the demand for a separate Muslim nation, leading to the creation of **Pakistan** in 1947.

As the leader of the Muslim League, Jinnah negotiated with the British and the Congress for the terms of independence through the **Mountbatten Plan**.

Pakistan emerged as a new nation, and Jinnah served as its **first Governor-General** until his passing in 1948.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision for Pakistan emphasized religious freedom, equal rights, and parliamentary democracy. While primarily known for his role in the creation of Pakistan, Jinnah's earlier contributions to the Indian Independence Movement within the Congress underscore his commitment to addressing the diverse concerns of the people in the subcontinent. His leadership and statesmanship during this pivotal period in history left an enduring mark on the political landscape of South Asia.



## VELU NACHIYAR (1730 - 1796)

*Veeramangai* ("Brave Woman")



Velu Nachiyar was born in 1730 in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu. She was a brave queen and an early key figure in the Indian Independence Movement against British rule. Her life was marked by courage, resilience, and a strong commitment to the cause of freedom.

After her husband, the king of **Sivaganga**, was killed by the British, Velu Nachiyar sought refuge with the **Marathas** (an empire neighboring her own kingdom). During this time, she honed her military and leadership skills in preparation to reclaim her kingdom from colonial forces.

In 1780, Velu Nachiyar launched a daring mission to regain Sivaganga. With the support of the Marathas, she formed an army and employed innovative military tactics against the technologically superior British forces. Her strategic brilliance and resilience played a crucial role in challenging British rule around 50 years before India achieved true independence.

Velu Nachiyar's achievement in the 1781 recapture of Sivaganga made her the first queen to defy British authority. Her bravery earned her admiration, and she became a symbol of resistance in the struggle for India's independence long after her reign.

Beyond her military feats, Velu Nachiyar focused on establishing a just and progressive administration. She implemented policies for the welfare of her subjects, embodying a vision for a free and prosperous kingdom. Velu Nachiyar's contributions, although less widely known, are a testament to the diverse roles played by regional leaders in India's fight against colonial oppression. Her story inspires courage and determination, highlighting the importance of local leaders in the broader narrative of India's journey toward independence.

## SAROJINI NAIDU (1879 - 1949)

*Bharat Kokila* ("The Nightingale of India")



Sarojini Naidu, a remarkable leader during the Indian independence movement, was born on February 13, 1879, in Hyderabad, India. Fondly known as the "*Nightingale of India*," she made significant contributions as a poet, politician, and social activist.

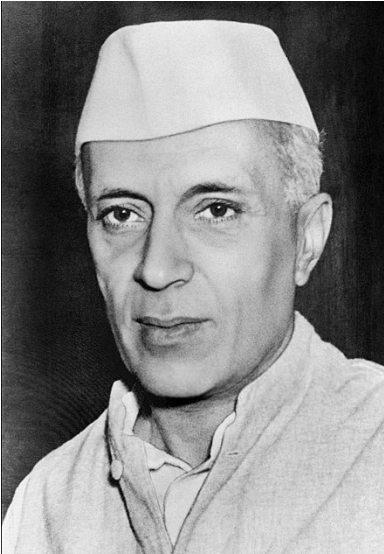
Sarojini Naidu began her journey as a poet, showcasing her talent and love for literature. She studied in England, becoming the first Indian woman to graduate from the **University of Cambridge**. Returning to India, she joined the **Indian National Congress** and became a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi.

Her powerful speeches and writings played a crucial role in inspiring people to fight for India's freedom. Sarojini Naidu actively participated in the **Non-Cooperation Movement** and the **Civil Disobedience Movement**, encouraging others to join in peaceful protests against British rule.

In addition to her political contributions, Sarojini Naidu championed women's rights. She presided over the Congress session in 1925, making history as the first Indian woman to do so. Her dedication to social issues, along with her eloquent poetry, left an enduring impact on India's struggle for independence.

Sarojini Naidu's legacy lives on as a symbol of courage and empowerment. Her role in shaping India's destiny and her commitment to justice and equality make her an inspiring figure for young minds learning about the heroes of the Indian independence movement.

## JAWAHARLAL NEHRU (1889 - 1964)



Jawaharlal Nehru was born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, India and was a pivotal figure in the Indian Independence Movement, later becoming the **first Prime Minister** of independent India. Fondly called "**Pandit Nehru**," he played a crucial role in shaping the destiny of the nation.

Educated in England, Nehru was deeply influenced by the ideals of democracy and social justice. Upon his return to India, he joined **Mahatma Gandhi** in the fight against British colonial rule. His charismatic leadership and commitment to non-violence made him a prominent member of the Indian National Congress.

As a key ally of Gandhi, Nehru participated actively in various freedom movements, advocating for the rights of Indians. He became the president of the **Indian National Congress** in 1929 and hoisted the tricolor flag on the banks of the Ravi River, marking a symbol of India's desire for independence.

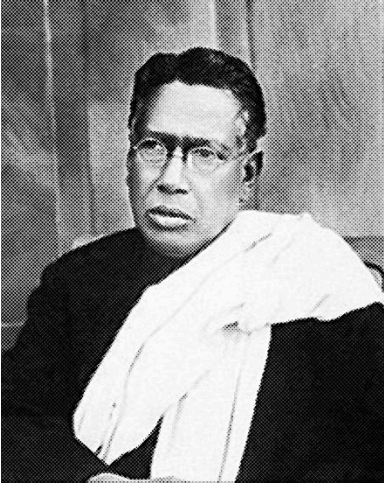
Nehru's vision for a modern and industrialized India was reflected in his efforts to promote scientific education and social reforms. He played a crucial role in drafting the **Indian Constitution**, ensuring the values of democracy, secularism, and social justice.

On August 15, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister of independent India, leading the nation into a new era. His contributions extended beyond politics to nation-building, focusing on economic development, education, and social welfare.

Pandit Nehru's legacy is profound, and his birthday, November 14, is celebrated as **Children's Day** in India, honoring his love for children and emphasis on education. His role in the Indian Independence Movement and subsequent leadership shaped the foundations of a democratic and inclusive India.

## BIPIN CHANDRA PAL (1858 - 1932)

*"Father of Revolutionary Thoughts"*



Born on November 7, 1858, in Sylhet, Bangladesh, Bipin Chandra Pal, was a significant leader in the Indian Independence Movement. Known as the "*Father of Revolutionary Thoughts*," Pal was a passionate speaker and writer.

Pal joined the **Indian National Congress** in the 1880s and, along with **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Lala Lajpat Rai**, formed the **Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate** advocating for India's independence. His powerful speeches inspired people to stand up against British rule.

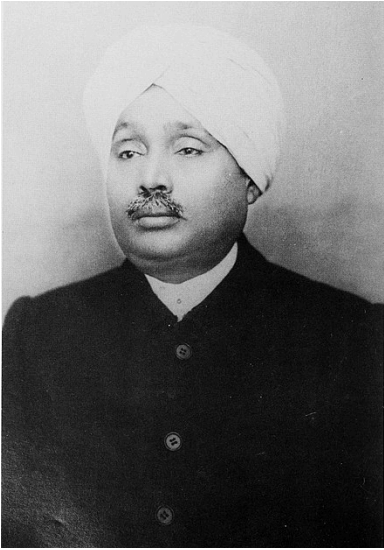
A prolific writer, Pal used newspapers like ***Bande Mataram*** and ***New India*** to express anti-colonial sentiments. He believed in economic self-sufficiency and led the **Swadeshi Movement**, encouraging Indians to use local products and reject foreign goods.

Despite facing imprisonment, Bipin Chandra Pal remained committed to the cause. His fearless approach and intellectual contributions earned him respect as a visionary leader. Pal's advocacy for direct action against British rule marked him as a key figure in the extremist faction of the Congress.

While he later distanced himself from the Congress due to ideological differences, his impact on the overall independence movement remained significant. Bipin Chandra Pal's life ended on May 20, 1932, but his legacy as a leader who inspired change and stood up for the rights of Indians continues to resonate. The "*Father of Revolutionary Thoughts*" remains a symbol of courage and determination in the history of India's fight for freedom.

## LALA LAJPAT RAI (1865 - 1928)

*Punjab Kesari* ("The Lion of Punjab")



Lala Lajpat Rai was a brave and influential leader in the Indian Independence Movement who was born on January 28, 1865, in Dhudike, Punjab. Known as "**Punjab Kesari**" or "*The Lion of Punjab*," Rai played a crucial role in India's fight for freedom.

Lajpat Rai, along with **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Bipin Chandra Pal**, formed the **Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate** within the **Indian National Congress**. He was a powerful speaker and writer, using his voice and pen to inspire people to stand against British rule. Rai founded newspapers like **The Tribune** to share ideas and critique British policies.

One of his significant contributions was leading protests against the partition of Bengal in 1905 and advocating for economic self-sufficiency in the **Swadeshi Movement**. Rai encouraged Indians to use local products and boycott British goods, becoming a symbol of resistance against economic exploitation.

In 1928, during the **Simon Commission protests**, Lala Lajpat Rai was injured by the police but continued to address the crowd, showing immense courage. Unfortunately, he passed away on November 17, 1928, from injuries sustained during the protests. His death became a catalyst for the fight against British rule.

Lala Lajpat Rai's legacy as *Punjab Kesari* lives on as a symbol of courage and sacrifice. His contributions continue to inspire young minds, reminding them of the importance of standing up for justice and freedom in the history of India's struggle for independence.

## BALDEV SINGH (1902 - 1961)



Baldev Singh was a significant leader in the Indian Independence Movement who was born on July 11, 1902, in Rupnagar, Punjab. His commitment to the cause of freedom and social justice made him a respected figure in Indian politics.

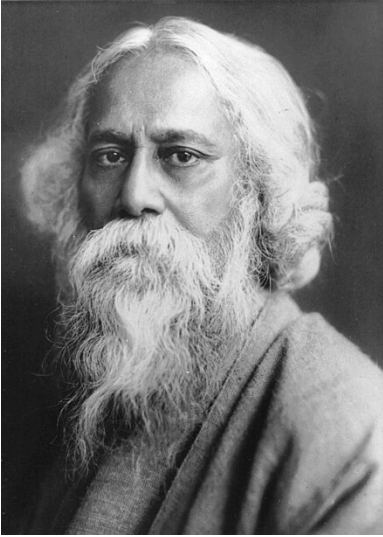
Baldev Singh actively participated in the **Akali Movement**, advocating for the rights of the Sikh community and control of their religious places. His involvement in the **Civil Disobedience Movement** demonstrated his dedication, leading to imprisonment for his anti-colonial activities.

Singh's political journey continued with his role in the **Khalsa National Party**, which later merged with the **Indian National Congress**. During the **Quit India Movement** in 1942, he played a key role in mobilizing support to end British rule. Despite facing arrest, Singh remained committed to the cause.

Post-independence, Baldev Singh served as the **first Defence Minister** of independent India, contributing to the integration of princely states into the Indian Union. His efforts were crucial in building a strong defense infrastructure for the newly independent nation.

Baldev Singh's legacy endures as a symbol of the Sikh community's participation in the struggle for independence and nation-building. His commitment to secularism and social justice makes him a respected figure in India's history. Baldev Singh's life represents the dedication of individuals who played a crucial role in achieving a free and united India.

## RABINDRANATH TAGORE (1861 - 1941)



Born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta, India, Rabindranath Tagore was a poet, philosopher, and educator whose contributions left an important mark on the Indian Independence Movement. Tagore's early life was filled with a love for literature and arts, and he went on to become the first non-European Nobel laureate in Literature in 1913 for his collection of poems, ***Gitanjali***.

Tagore's influence in India extended beyond literature. In 1901, he founded **Visva-Bharati University**, promoting a unique form of education that combined Western and Indian traditions. He believed in the power of education to shape a free and enlightened society. His contributions to literature in education lead Tagore to being knighted by King George the V of England in 1915.

While Tagore didn't engage in militant activism, his patriotism was evident through his writings. He composed the song "**Jana Gana Mana**" which embodies the spirit of unity and resistance against colonial rule. The song was later adopted as India's national anthem.

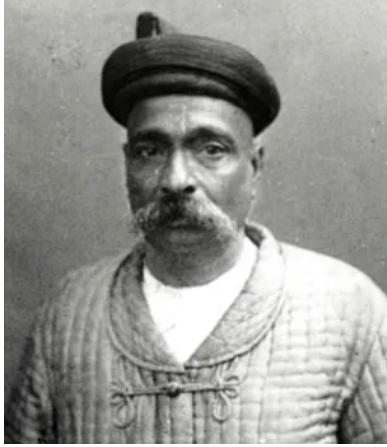
Tagore's stance against the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in 1919 showcased his commitment to justice. In protest of this terrible event, he returned his knighthood back to Britain, condemning British atrocities and advocating for moral resistance over violence.

Tagore's contributions to the Indian Independence Movement also extended to the **Swadeshi Movement**, urging native Indians to embrace their culture and support their own economy by purchasing products made by India rather than items made by England or other countries. His vision emphasized a harmonious, culturally rich India.

Rabindranath Tagore's life was a tapestry of creativity, education, and patriotism. His timeless contributions continue to inspire generations, making him a revered figure in India's history.

## BAL GANGADHAR TILAK (1856 - 1920)

*Lokmanya* ("Accepted by the People")



Bal Gangadhar Tilak was born in 1856 in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra and was a key leader in the Indian Independence Movement. Fondly known as "**Lokmanya**," Tilak was a teacher, journalist, and political activist.

Tilak's early career as a teacher highlighted his commitment to education as a tool for liberation. He co-founded the **Deccan Education Society** to promote modern education and instill a sense of national pride.

As a journalist, Tilak used newspapers like **Kesari** and **Maratha** to spread nationalist ideas and challenge British policies. His writings inspired people to unite against colonial rule.

One of Tilak's notable contributions was popularizing the **Ganesh Chaturthi festival** as a public event. He believed in celebrating festivals as a means of fostering national unity and expressing patriotic fervor.

Tilak vehemently opposed the partition of Bengal into its own separate territory detached from India in 1905, seeing it as a tactic to divide communities. His famous slogan, "*Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it,*" echoed the collective desire for independence.

Despite facing imprisonment, Tilak remained dedicated to the cause. He played a crucial role in the **Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate**, alongside **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bipin Chandra Pal**, advocating radical measures for self-rule.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak's life and leadership left an enduring impact on the Indian Independence Movement. His legacy continues to inspire young minds in their pursuit of freedom and justice.



## LESSON 2: MUSIC AS BIOGRAPHY

### OVERVIEW

This lesson will help students draw connections between musical works and their human subjects. By considering the ways composers represent various aspects of a person's life and personality through music elements, students will gain a better understanding of the meaning and structure of *V.O.C.: Helmsman of the Sea* by Shruthi Rajasekar. In this lesson, music students have the opportunity to analyze several works of music inspired by or based on the life of a historic figure.

### MATERIALS

Visual access to the score *V.O.C.* by Shruthi Rajasekar; visual access to one or more of the scores listed below (or score for another biographical work for concert band); audio recording to *V.O.C.* (if available!); audio recording to one or more of the scores listed below.

### CONTEXT

Throughout history, countless works of music have been written inspired by the life, works, and personalities of living and historic people. Many times, a composer writes about a loved one or personal friend, while other times, they may be inspired to compose a work based on a famous or historic figure. Music without text or lyrics can still portray a person through the use of programmatic elements throughout the piece. These works can serve as a sort of biography of the person they are based on but might also include elements that hint at the composer's feelings about the subject.

### TASK

Introduce the concept of music as biography to the class and open a discussion on songs or works of music based on real people that the students may already know. Invite them to share in small groups or with the whole class. Time permitting, listen to student examples as a class and allow the musicians to draw connections between the music (and lyrics/text if available) and the life or personality of the work's subject.

Next, engage the students with one or more works for concert band inspired by a historical subject. A list of band pieces inspired by American historical figures is included in this lesson plan. *For international ensembles, select a piece of music and historical figure relevant to your community.* Before listening to the piece, engage the class in the following steps.

- Research or share what is known about the selected historical figure
- Brainstorm how this figure might be portrayed musically; make predictions about ...
  - What instruments might be featured
  - Tempo
  - Keys, tonalities, range/tessitura
  - Motives, melodic content
  - Rhythmic patterns
  - Style, dynamics, intensity
  - Any other musical representation

Once predictions have been made, listen to the selected piece and follow along in the score. Refer back to the predictions to come to a consensus as to whether or not the predictions were accurate. Listen to the piece of music once again, this time, detailing a list of what musical elements *are* present in the work. Discuss how these elements may be tied to the composer's intent and/or their connection to the historical figure. Discussion questions may include:

- What did you hear in the piece of music?
  - What surprised you? What aligned with your predictions?
- Describe the piece of music we have just listened to with adjectives. Are these adjectives that could also describe the person the piece is based on?
- What moment(s) of the piece best represented the subject? Why?
- Based on our listening to the musical composition, what does the composer think or feel about the subject?
- Does the composition make you curious to learn more about the life of the subject? Why or why not?
- If you wrote a piece of music representing the same person in the piece we have just listened to, what would be similar to this work? What would be different?

### EXAMPLE PIECES FOR CONCERT BAND

#### INSPIRED BY/BASED ON AMERICAN HISTORICAL FIGURES

William Billings - *Chester* (William Schuman)

Cesar Chavez - *Chavez, 1927* (Giovanni Santos)

Dolores Huerta - *Dolores, AmeriCan* (Giovanni Santos)

Marsha P. Johnson - *Mother of a Revolution* (Omar Thomas)

John F. Kennedy - *Elegy for a Young American* (Ronald Lo Presti)

*The Leaves are Falling* (Warren Benson)

Martin Luther King, Jr. - *Etched in Stone* (Timothy Mahr)

*New Morning for the World* (Joseph Schwantner)

Abraham Lincoln - *A Lincoln Portrait* (Aaron Copland)

Rosa Parks - *A Movement for Rosa* (Mark Camphouse)

*Rosa Parks Boulevard* (Michael Daugherty)

Harriet Tubman - *Harriet* (O'Neal Douglas)

## **\*BONUS\* LESSON: FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

### **OVERVIEW**

After completing the lesson(s) on Indian Freedom Fighters and the Indian Independence Movement, encourage students to make connections to similar historical figures in the United States. While the most obvious parallel is the Revolutionary War, students may also be interested in researching American freedom fighters in other movements. Alternative lesson subjects: allow students to develop their own list of American freedom fighters or create a custom list based on geographic/cultural considerations.

Time permitting, facilitate students to complete the same steps in Lesson 1 with their American Freedom Fighter including creating a poster and composing a thematic melody to represent their selected historical figure.

### INCOMPLETE LIST OF AMERICAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS

#### AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Crispus Attucks

Benjamin Franklin

Thomas Jefferson

Nathan Hale

Alexander Hamilton

Thomas Paine

Paul Revere  
Betsy Ross  
Mercy Otis Warren  
George Washington

#### AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Ella Baker  
Septima Poinsette Clark  
James Farmer  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Coretta Scott King  
John Lewis  
Rosa Parks  
A. Philip Randolph  
Roy Wilkins  
Whitney Young

#### AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Susan B. Anthony  
Shirley Chisholm  
Margaret Sanger  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
Lucy Stone  
Sojourner Truth  
Victoria Woodhull

#### AMERICAN QUEER RIGHTS

Henry Gerber  
Barbara Gittings  
Harry Hay  
Marsha P. Johnson  
Billie Jean King  
Larry Kramer  
Audre Lorde  
Harvey Milk  
Sylvia Rivera  
Edith Windsor

#### INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

César Chávez  
Frida Khalo  
Fela Kuti  
Nelson Mandela  
Rigoberta Menchú  
Emmaline Pankhurst  
Jack Patten  
Desmond Tutu  
Ai Weiwei

Sitting Bull (Tatanka Yotanka)  
Malala Yousafzai