**Chapter 12**

ATTEND AND REPORT

Check the performance schedule of the music department on your campus, or a campus near you, for voice recitals or choir concerts and attend an event. You are sure to hear a few arts songs and madrigals on these recitals. Write a concert critique of the performance using the Hearing Music Live report form.

EXPLORE: Madrigal Dinners

[www.madrigaldinner.com](http://www.madrigaldinner.com)

On college/university campuses across the United States the Madrigal Dinner is a popular wintertime entertainment. Usually presented by choral departments these evenings are a mix of theatre, dance, jokes, and music from the Renaissance era—in period costume. At this site you can look at scripts for Madrigal Dinners to get an idea of the type of entertainment provided by such events. Madrigal Dinners have been popular events on college campuses for over thirty years.

RESEARCH

Try your hand at creating a song order for a CD of art songs. Search for recordings of the art songs listed below (you can find these on Naxos, Classical.com, or YouTube) and after listening to them place them in an order that you think is appropriate for a CD or recital. *In the Lovely Month of May,* Robert Schumann; *Der Wanderer* and *Die schöne* *Müllerin,* Franz Schubert; “Der Rattenfånger,” Hugo Wolf; “Song My Mother Taught Me”, Charles Ives; “The Circus Band,” Charles Ives; “Mandoline,” Claude Debussy. Share your ideas with others by posting your list to your class discussion board or the textbook Dashboard.

SHARE

Try hosting a salon concert in your own home. Gather friends on a Sunday afternoon, offer refreshments, and listen to or make music together. For an effect similar to a Schubertiad make sure you use new and/or popular music. In Schubert’s time the art presented was usually fresh, often never heard before. Socializing during the presentation was common and should be encouraged at your event. Observe the reaction of your friends to music in this type of setting and report to your class discussion board or the textbook Dashboard.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

*What was hot in the Romantic era?* Literature of all kinds, especially poetry. One example is the Goethe poem “The Erlking” studied in Listening Guide 12-3. Search YouTube for a recording of a different setting of The Erlking by Louis Spohr. Spohr was a contemporary of Schubert. Compare this setting to Schubert’s. How are tempos of the two settings different and how does that change the effect of the poem. Compare the piano parts of the two settings. Which one seems to be more important to the overall work? What other instrument does Spohr include in his setting? Why might he have included this instrument in his setting? Report your opinions to your course discussion board or the textbook Dashboard.

CULTURAL CONNECTION: Native American Songs

<https://myspace.com/therealblacklodgesingers/>

*How do songs sound in other cultures?*

Song is an important aspect of all cultures. To hear some Native American song go to this link to hear a recording of a Native American song as performed by the Black Lodge Singers.  How does the tone quality of the singers differ from that of the singers of Art Song?  What instrument is used to accompany the Native American song?  Notice the length of these songs.  How does it compare to the length of an Art Song?  To a popular song with which you are familiar?  Share your ideas with others on your course discussion board or the text Dashboard. Native American song sounds quite different from the madrigals and art songs studied in this unit. However, their intent is the same, expression of life through song.

EXPLORE: Singing Competitions

<http://www.halleonard.com/vocalcomp/>

A number of professional organizations sponsor singing competitions. At this site you can see how one such event, sponsored by a leading music publisher, functions. Watch the videos to see the talented contestants, review the rules and submission guidelines, and pay attention to the types of songs used in the competition.