



## “The Orchestra Rocks” 2024 Composer Challenge

The VSO Young People’s Concert this year is called “The Orchestra Rocks” and it is all about rhythm and energy that propels the music and the orchestra. Students will be introduced to composer, Curtis Stewart, and his new re-composition of Dvorak’s Slavonic Dance No 8 called “M. Bett”. Curtis uses rhythmic ostinatos to create a new groove in his pieces. He identifies motifs and augments, diminishes, and fragments them to create something new.

**Composer Challenge:** In the spirit of Curtis Stewart, we challenge the school districts that we serve to create their own re-compositions. The best videos will be shown at the VSO Young People’s Concert for your city in the Winter/Spring 2024.

**Who can submit:** All classes that will be attending the VSO concert can create a re-composition. Each school selects their best re-composition, and then submits it to the District Music Supervisor. The top videos will be sent to the VSO for final selection.

**Format:** Please submit a MP4 video of students performing selection that they create. (Students in the video must have signed media release forms from their school districts. Another media release form may be required for the video that is selected for the performance)

**Length:** No more than one minute. (30 seconds-45 seconds recommended)

**Music to re-compose:** Students and teachers choose from simple folk tunes such as Twinkle Twinkle Little Star; Row, Row, Row Your Boat; Mary Had a Little Lamb; Simple Gifts, etc.

**Parameters:** Use instruments found in your music classroom – rhythm instruments, Orff instruments; students can sing, speak and improvise. Recommended: limit number of parts to 2-4.

**Deadline:** MP4 videos are due to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_. Label video file with School District (City), School, teacher and email address. Winners will be announced by \_\_\_\_\_. (This information will be determined in every District)

This activity fulfills all the topics in the Virginia Fine Arts Standards in the Creative Process and Critical Thinking and Communication categories.

**Questions?** Please contact Helen Martell, Director of Education, [hmartell@virginiasympphony.org](mailto:hmartell@virginiasympphony.org)