Imagination

"Over the Rainbow"
"Imagine"
"Just My Imagination"
"Pure Imagination"
"A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes"

A World of Pure Imagination

Come with us and travel to a world of pure imagination. You're invited to explore your dreams and hopes with fun and playful music ranging from songs from classic musicals like The Wizard of Oz to the music of The Temptations.
Song: "Over the Rainbow" (1939)
Songwriters: Harold Arlen and E.Y. "Yip" Harburg

Brief Context: "Over the Rainbow," with music by Harold Arlen and lyrics by E.Y. "Yip" Harburg, is the Academy-Award-winning song from the 1939 MGM film, The Wizard of Oz. Dorothy Gale, played by Judy Garland, sings this song on her family’s farm in Kansas when longing for "some place where there isn't any trouble."

Activity: Singing

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Over the Rainbow" video
- Perfect Harmony "Over the Rainbow" lyrics

Archives Artifact

Sheet music cover of "Over the Rainbow" from the Bob Grimes Collection, Songbook Library & Archives. The illustrations were drawn by Al Hirschfeld, the artist famous for his caricature portraits of celebrities.
Over the Rainbow

Somewhere over the rainbow
Way up high
There's a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby

Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true

Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh, why can't I?

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh, why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?
Song: "Imagine" (1971)  
Songwriter: John Lennon

Brief Context: In John Lennon's song "Imagine," Lennon invites listeners to imagine a place where the things that divide us do not exist. Broadcast Music, Inc. named "Imagine" one of the 100 most performed songs of the 20th century. In 1999, it was ranked number 30 on the Recording Industry Association of America's list of the 365 "Songs of the Century", earned a GRAMMY Hall of Fame Award, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's "500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll".

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Imagine" video

Did you know?

The lyrics of "Imagine" were inspired by the 1964 book Grapefruit written by John Lennon's partner, Yoko Ono. The book is filled with instructions and drawings of what she hoped for in the world.
Song: "Just My Imagination" (1971)  
As performed by: The Temptations

Brief Context: The Temptations' "Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)," reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 on April 3, 1971. The lyrics come from the point of view of a man looking out a window and watching a beautiful woman passing. He says to himself, "You're such a lucky guy / To have a girl like her is truly a dream come true." Almost immediately, though, he admits this isn't true at all. The girl isn't his. It was "Just my imagination running away with me."

Activity: Movement

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony “Just My Imagination” video

Suggested Seated Movement

Follow Perfect Harmony leader Amy or create your own seated movement!

Use movements like . . .

- Sway left to right
- Slowly march in place
- Snap your fingers to the beat

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Song: "Pure Imagination" (1971)  
Songwriters: Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

Brief Context: “Pure Imagination” was written in 1971 by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley for the movie Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory, where it was sung by Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka. Since its release, the song has been covered and remixed hundreds of times by a wide variety of artists.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Pure Imagination" video

Suggested discussion prompt

This song was featured in the movie Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory starring Gene Wilder. In this scene, Willy Wonka introduces his guests to his imaginative chocolate room where everything is a sweet treat and ready to eat!

Can you imagine a room full of your favorite candy or dessert? What favorite candy or dessert would you put in your imagination room?

- Hershey's Kisses
- Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups
- Skittles
- Apple Pie
- Chocolate Chip Cookies

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Come with me and you'll be
In a world of pure imagination
Take a look and you'll see
Into your imagination

We'll begin with a spin
Traveling in the world of my creation
What we'll see will defy explanation

If you want to view paradise
Simply look around and view it
Anything you want to, do it
Want to change the world?
There's nothing to it

There is no life I know
To compare with pure imagination
Living there, you'll be free
If you truly wish to be

If you want to view paradise
Simply look around and view it
Anything you want to, do it
Want to change the world?
There's nothing to it

There is no life I know
To compare with pure imagination
Living there, you'll be free
If you truly wish to be
Song: "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes" (1950) 
from the Disney movie Cinderella

Brief Context: "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes" was written and composed by Mack David, Al Hoffman and Jerry Livingston for the 1950 Walt Disney film Cinderella. It finds Cinderella, as voiced by Ilene Woods, encouraging her animal friends to never stop wishing and dreaming.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes" video

Archives Artifact

Speaking of Disney, The Music Man creator Meredith Willson and his wife, Rini, received golden tickets to the Grand Opening Dedication Ceremony and "passports" to enjoy exclusive access to events in the Magic Kingdom. These materials are housed in the Songbook Library & Archives.