

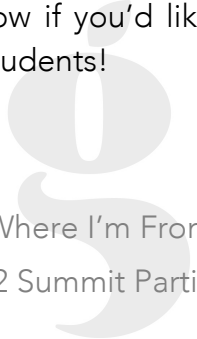
Where I'm From

Ostinato Based Composition with Spoken-Word

Where I'm From (music) is an ostinato based guitar ensemble composition intended to be performed with spoken-word poetry inspired by George Ella Lyon's poem of the same name. It was originally composed and arranged for ACG's 2022 National Teacher Summit in Austin, TX. Participants at the summit submitted poetry (see poetry assignment), and parts and phrases were compiled from the entries to form the final poem, the final poem is below.

The flexible nature of the musical arrangement gave space for timing the spoken-word performers with important and structural moments in the composition. The 'entrances' as indicated, are the order that each part could enter in within a repeated section.

On the final day of the 2022 summit, the ensemble recorded the *Where I'm From*. [Check out the video](#), and let us know if you'd like more info, or if we can help you produce this project with your own students!



Where I'm From
by 2022 Summit Participants

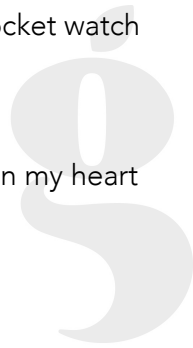
I am from the kitchen table, the pantry
From worn recliners, and wall clocks
I am from Folger's coffee and Lay's potato chips and cheap guitars
I'm from cactus, who stands short and pointy,
The limbs are spiny but produce flowers that my grandfather would harvest on his land.
I am from a warm west Texas night
From tumbleweeds and mesquite
Skies that have more stars than time to count them
From desert mountains changing colors in slow motion from dawn to dusk
I'm from the tall and kindhearted
From "Te quiero mucho mijo" and "everything has a reason"
I'm from Hope and longing that there is something to hold on to

(cont.)

I am from carpools and road trips and singing with friends.
From a one-story sunrise
wistful, glorious, proud
I am from quiet footsteps and excessive cleanliness
From shoes by the front door
I am from grass, neatly mowed and manicured
I am from "No you can't, but I know you can"
From "hush your mouth" and "be back when the street-lights glow".

From that border town where the heat can fry an egg, but can be beat by a cold glass of
horchata y una palleta de mango
From the journey of migration and the rustling of trees reminding me exactly where I should be
from my mother's jewelry box
In a smaller box sits my grandfather's pocket watch
I am from the strangest of places

I am from a special place that now lives in my heart
I am from a place that felt lost
I am from a place called earth
Just like you



B

XII

1 *E3* *p* *mf* *f* *H12* *p*

2 *E4* *p*

3 *E1*

4 *E5* 1 2 4 0

5 *E5* 1 0 0 2

6 *E2* *mf* *p*

C

p *i* *m*

1 *E1* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

2 *E2* 0 1 0 2 0 0

3 *E3* *f*

4 *E4* 2 4 0 3 *f*

5 *E5* 1 0 0 2 *f*

6 *E3* 4 2 4 1 2

D

Musical score for section D, featuring six staves. The key signature is E major (three sharps). The score includes the following elements:

- Staff 1:** Treble clef, E2. Features a melodic line with triplets of eighth notes. Dynamics: *p*.
- Staff 2:** Treble clef, E1. Features a melodic line with eighth notes. Dynamics: *p*.
- Staff 3:** Treble clef, E3. Features a melodic line with eighth notes. Dynamics: *mp*.
- Staff 4:** Treble clef, E2. Features a melodic line with eighth notes. Dynamics: *mp*.
- Staff 5:** Treble clef, E1. Features a melodic line with eighth notes. Dynamics: *p*.
- Staff 6:** Treble clef, E1. Features a bass line with quarter notes. Dynamics: *p*.

E

Musical score for section E, featuring six staves. The key signature is E major (three sharps). The score includes the following elements:

- Staff 1:** Treble clef, E3. Features a melodic line with quarter notes. Dynamics: *p*. Includes a *solo* instruction.
- Staff 2:** Treble clef, E2. Features a melodic line with quarter notes. Dynamics: *p*.
- Staff 3:** Treble clef, E2. Features a melodic line with eighth notes. Dynamics: *p*.
- Staff 4:** Treble clef, E1. Features a melodic line with quarter notes. Dynamics: *p*.
- Staff 5:** Treble clef, E2. Features a melodic line with quarter notes. Dynamics: *p*.
- Staff 6:** Treble clef, E1. Features a bass line with quarter notes. Dynamics: *p*.