

space to highlight the up-and-coming artists that haven't yet gained the fame to be a cover artist, but show unique musicality and a growing fan base.

Even more of an "opposite" (in terms of cultural relevance) than Fronrunner is to a cover artist is the subject of each month's Icon. Whereas a Fronrunner is a relatively new artist that shows promise but hasn't yet had their big break, and a cover artist is someone with a No. 1 hit or a new album everyone's talking about, an Icon is someone who's been around so long and wielded so much influence over popular culture that they're widely recognized as a definitive voice in their respective genre—someone like Frank Sinatra, Dizzy Gillespie, Joni Mitchell, or Aretha Franklin.

Have students pick an artist on the Listening List and write a paragraph or two about them as if they were a featured Fronrunner. Then, ask them whether or not they think the artist has the potential to become an Icon, or a cover artist, and why.

4. BREAK IT DOWN

In *In Tune Monthly's* sister publication *Music Alive!*, there's a section in each issue called the Listening Guide, where each month a song's elements are notated and described on a visual timeline of the song. The purpose of the section is to get students thinking about the many different sounds that go into a song, whether it's production elements like reverb or distortion, or dynamic differences between the verse and chorus of a stripped-down acoustic ballad. Regardless of the song choice, the Listening Guide helps students to be engaged with the details of a song in a way they normally wouldn't.

Try out a Listening Guide-esque exercise with some of the songs on the Listening List. Ask students to pay attention to sound effects, instrumentation (in particular, overall instrumentation and when instruments are added or taken away), dynamics, vocal and lyrical articulation, and when the music or lyrics emphasize one another. For

instrumental selections, ask students to pay more attention to phrasing, articulation, and dynamics.

If the students have their own classroom computers, have them each listen to a particular song with headphones, and take note of 10 different elements and the time at which they come in.

5. JUST LISTEN

These are just a few examples of how you can turn the Listening List into a lesson for students—but there are many other ways students can be engaged with its content. If students have their own computers or devices, for an easy exercise, have them listen to the list in their headphones, and hand out a questionnaire afterwards to both test their comprehension and make sure they've really listened.

If you already make active use of the Listening List in your classroom in a way we haven't listed here, feel free to share it with us via the contact form on our website at intunemonthly.com/contact-us. **T**

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