



# London Symphony Orchestra Discovery Project

***Year 6***

***West Side Story***

# Year 6

On Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, 2 classes in Year 6 had the privilege to visit the Barbican centre and watch performances from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* by the London Symphony Orchestra. During the concert the orchestra performed Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* which told the most important bits of the story. We also contributed to performing with the orchestra the hit tune "America".

## *Child-led research:*

Before the visit, children developed their understanding and enjoyment of the story and the music behind the story. They took part in two activities and composing to learn the style of the music they would listen to at the concert. Alongside that, one of the main things they focused on was both the story by William Shakespeare and Leonard Bernstein.

Even though Leonard Bernstein's famous song 'America' isn't included in the Symphonic Dances, for this performance, it was included in the concert. This rhythmic project helped students get to grips with its unusual rhythm. Two classes in Year 6 spent weeks practising the song in order to be able to sing along during the concert.

# Year 6

## Student responses:

“It made us feel the emotions of the characters and the story through how interactive the performances were.” – Labib (6R)

“I enjoyed listening to how the different instruments were used to build up the creation of a song.” – Abaan (6R)

“The presenter was so enthusiastic which I really enjoyed.” – Aman (6R)

“I liked how after each piece they told us about the instruments and the story behind the song.” – Abdul (6R)

“I liked how they used different types of instruments in each piece.” – Adam (6R)

“We liked the way the performance started calm and gradually built up, which worked alongside the story” – (6J) (Ammar, Rafia, Faiza, Anirudha, Ishaq & Hannah)

“The sounds of the instruments set the atmosphere and convey the character’s personalities” – (6J) (Robert, Ruwaida, Mohamed & Hassan)

“We really enjoyed it when we were able to take part in the songs” – (6J) (Farid, Hibah, Arafat, Hadia, Petrus & Alayna)

“We liked how the music reflected the mood within the story” – (6J) (Ayaan, Hiba, Md. Amir, Abi, Fahad, Usman)

“Although many different instruments were used, we liked how they all came together in unison” – (6J) (Aqil, Hassan, Zainab, Aaron & Menahill)

“We liked the way that the songs made us feel that we were there” – (6J) (Sabbir, Vias, Maddie, Lizzy, Ikhlās & Israt)

# London Symphony Orchestra



# At the Barbican



6R and 6J having lunch after the performance

