WHO AM I?
George Walker is an award-winning American composer who wrote “Lyric for Strings” when he was just 24 years old. See if you can find out at three things about Mr. Walker and his life. What are some of the words that you would use to describe his music and his story?

WHAT’S IN A NAME? LISTENING
“Lyric for Strings” wasn’t the original title of this piece. Mr. Walker first named it “Lament”, after his grandmother passed away. What does “Lament” mean? What does “Lyric” mean? Listen to the piece and identify a few spots where you can hear how the words are described through the music. Can you explain why you chose those spots?

LISTEN, THEN DRAW
“Lyric for Strings” is a piece that describes a lot of emotions. Can you describe some of those feelings in words, and create art that illustrates those feelings? Or, if the music were playing over a movie, what story could you imagine is playing out? Describe the action and take time to create art that shows your story.

RESEARCH
Leonard Bernstein is another American composer that lived at the same time as George Walker – they even went to the same school. While Mr. Walker was writing “Lyric for Strings”, Mr. Bernstein wrote a famous musical called “On the Town”. Can you find a recording or video of some of the songs, such as “Lonely Town”? What sounds similar? What sounds different?