SAN ANTONIO
SYMPHONY

SEBASTIAN LANG-LESSING
TOBIN ENDOWMENT MUSIC DIRECTOR CHAIR

2014-2015 Young People's Concert Series

Presents

YPC 3 - BILLY THE KID AND PAINT TO MUSIC

TEACHER'S GUIDE

MAY 5, 6 AND 7, 2015, 9:45 AM AND 11:10 AM

H-E-B Performance Hall at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts

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YPC 3 - BILLY THE KID

WHO WAS BILLY THE KID?

It seems like everyone's heard of him, but who was he? Was he a cold-blooded killer, a liar and a murderer? Or was he a disadvantaged and misunderstood youth, who lost his way as a teenager? Sadly, many of the facts and personal accounts about the person known as Billy the Kid have been lost to history. He is believed to have been born to Irish immigrants in New York City in the year 1859; his actual birthday is unknown, but his name at birth was William Henry McCarty, Jr. It is uncertain what happened to William's father, but his mother Catherine cared for him until her death.

Like many other that left the cities to move west in the 1800s, Catherine McCarty left New York for a number of reasons. Poverty, foul living conditions, poor treatment of immigrants and news of work opportunities out west all convinced her to move 8-year-old William and his brother to Indianapolis, Indiana in 1868. There she met William Antrim, who would become young William's stepfather. The family continued west, eventually settling in Silver City, New Mexico. Antrim turned out to be a poor father figure who was rarely home and squandered the family's money on gambling. When young William's mother died shortly afterwards of tuberculosis (not by a gunshot in the street, as in the ballet story), Billy was taken to a boarding house. Living conditions were not good there either, and he soon got into trouble with other boarders for stealing food and clothing. He was arrested for stealing at 15 and put in jail, where he made his first great escape by shimmying up a chimney. He escaped to Arizona Territory where he fell in with horse thieves and became known as "Kid Antrim." There he shot a man who insulted him and had thrown him

Personal Stats: William Bonney

Born: late 1859 (155 years ago)

Died: July 14, 1881 (133 years ago)

Nationality: American

Mostly lived in: New Mexico

Famous for: fearlessness, several daring escapes, fighting in the Lincoln County War of 1878, being a legendary outlaw.

THE LINCOLN COUNTY WAR

The conflict known as the Lincoln County War arose out of a problem of **supply and demand**. Until the time of Billy's arrival, there had been only one general store in all of Lincoln County – only one store where people could buy everything they needed! The store was run by two rich partners named Lawrence Murphy and James Dolan. They had a **monopoly** on the sale of all dry goods in the area. The store's products were in high demand to support the growing needs of everyone in the county. By controlling the supply, however, Murphy and Dolan could charge high prices to the locals for their goods, and they made a fortune doing it. In 1876 a businessman named John Tunstall tried to open a competing store. Murphy and Dolan didn't like Tunstall partly because he was English and they were Irish (there was a lot of enmity between the English and the Irish at that time). They also knew they would have to lower their prices in order to compete with Tunstall's store, and this made them upset. So they tried to run him out of town. In 1878 Tunstall was shot and killed by Murphy and Dolan's henchmen. This made the townspeople angry because they had liked Tunstall and his store. They were also angry because the sheriff was in cahoots with Murphy and Dolan and did nothing about it. Persuaded by the people of Lincoln, the County Justice of the Peace formed a group of special deputies called the "Regulators" to track down Tunstall's killers. Included in the Regulators was one William Bonney, known as Billy the Kid. The formation of the Regulators made the sheriff angry, and he started building up his own army of former gangsters. A series of bloody battles followed, in which the Governor of New Mexico got involved. The governor sided with the Murphy, Dolan and the sheriff, and eventually sent in US Army soldiers. In a five day battle for the town of Lincoln, most of the Regulators will killed or arrested. Only Billy the Kid and few others escaped.

to the ground one day. Billy returned to New Mexico to escape being arrested. After a short period of riding with gangs of cattle thieves, he began to refer to himself as "William H. Bonney." He moved to Lincoln County, NM in 1877 at age 17 to work in a cheese factory. As luck would have it, the bloody **Lincoln County War** of New Mexico, broke out shortly afterwards. Billy had gotten back into rustling in Lincoln and was arrested for stealing horses from a store and ranch owner named John Tunstall. Instead of pressing charges, Tunstall hired Billy to help protect his cattle from other rustlers. Tunstall was murdered soon after, and this started the Lincoln County War. Billy joined a group of deputies called the "Regulators" to avenge Tunstall's death. The Regulators had the support of the people, who even saw Billy the Kid and a few others as heroes – heroes who were fighting against the monopoly of Murphy and Dolan. The Governor of New Mexico disagreed however, and decreed the Regulators to be outlaws and wanted men. After a number of bloody battles, the Regulators were defeated with the help of the US Army, and only Billy and a few others escaped. In 1878, a newly appointed Governor tried to offer **amnesty** to Billy and others – legal forgiveness for their involvement in the Lincoln County War. Billy accepted, but was held in jail beyond the agreed upon time by the district attorney. He escaped and went on the run. The new Sheriff of Lincoln, Pat Garrett, tracked him down and

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

The law of supply and demand is a basic foundation of economics. If **demand** for a particular product increases – more people want to buy it – then the price will go up until there is enough of the product to meet the demand. If the **supply** of a product increases – how many are available – then the price will go down until there is enough demand for the product to meet the supply.

managed to arrest him. He was taken to Las Vegas where a jury found him guilty of murder, and the judge sentenced him to death by hanging. Billy was taken back to the courthouse jail in Lincoln, where he escaped again, this time killing two lawmen. Billy hid out in the house of a friend, Pete Maxwell. On July 14, 1881, Sheriff Pat Garrett tracked him down again and managed to surprise him at Maxwell's house, where he killed Billy the Kid with one shot. He was buried next to two of his fallen friends at Fort Sumner, NM. In 2010, Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico considered issue a **pardon** – legal forgiveness for his crimes – for the long dead William Bonney, a.k.a. Billy the Kid. Without more accurate historical information however, Governor Richardson announced his decision not to pardon the Kid on his last day in office.

Sherriff Pat Garrett

The Lincoln County Courthouse and Jail, where Billy the Kid made a famous escape

BILLY THE KID: A FOLK SONG

I'll sing you a true song of Billy the Kid,
I'll sing of the desperate deeds that he did,
Way out in New Mexico long, long ago,
When a man's only chance was his own 44.

When Billy the Kid was a very young lad,
In old Silver City he went to the bad;
Way out in the West with a gun in his hand
At the age of twelve years he first killed his man.

Fair Mexican maidens play guitars and sing
A song about Billy, their boy bandit king,
How ere his young manhood had reached its sad end
Had a notch on his pistol for twenty-one men.

'Twas on the same night when poor Billy died
He said to his friends: "I am not satisfied;
There are twenty-one men I have put bullets through
And Sheriff Pat Garrett must make twenty-two."

Now this is how Billy the Kid met his fate:
The bright moon was shining, the hour was late,
Shot down by Pat Garrett, who once was his friend,
The young outlaw's life had now come to its end.

There's many a man with a face fine and fair
Who starts out in life with a chance to be square,
But just like poor Billy he wanders astray
And loses his life in the very same way.

Lomax, John A. and Alan Lomax. "Billy the Kid." *American Ballads and Folk Songs*. New York: Macmillan, 1934. 137-8. Print.