



## TEACHER RESOURCES

# PINK MARTINI



To apply for tickets for your school or community group to attend this *Share the Music* event, please visit [mhrth.com/sharethemusic](http://mhrth.com/sharethemusic)

## FROM POLITICS TO THE STAGE

It was during 1994 when Thomas Lauderdale was working in politics, hopefully running for the government office in Portland. After visiting enough political fundraisers with underwhelming and unneighbourly music, the idea of forming a unique multi-lingual “little orchestra” that could appeal to both conservatives and liberals alike meanwhile providing music for fundraisers for causes such as civil rights, affordable housing, cleaning up the Willamette River, funding for libraries, public broadcasting, education and parks came to Lauderdale’s mind. A year later, he called China Forbes, his classmate from Harvard who was located in New York City, and asked her to join Pink Martini. They began to write songs together, and their first song “Sympathique” (Je ne veux pas travailler) became an overnight hit in France, was nominated for “Song of the Year” at France’s Victoires de la Musique Awards, and became a mantra (“Je ne veux pas travailler” or “I don’t want to work”) for striking French workers.

This “little orchestra” blends Classical music, Classic pop, Latin music, Jazz, and even Cabaret and cinema scores, presented in multiple languages. Pink Martini’s efforts to promote inclusivity in music can be seen as political action. Lauderdale says: “We’re very much an American band, but we spend a lot of time abroad and therefore have the incredible diplomatic opportunity to represent a broader, more inclusive America... the America which remains the most heterogeneously populated country in the world... composed of people of every country, every language, every religion. Except for Native Americans, all of us are immigrants from every country, of every language, of every religion.” To this day, the band continues its legacy, visiting countries from Europe and Asia to Africa to the Middle East.



*“Pink Martini is a rollicking around-the-world musical adventure... if the United Nations had a house band in 1962, hopefully we’d be that band.”*

**- THOMAS LAUDERDALE, BANDLEADER/PIANIST**



## DID YOU KNOW?

**CHINA FORBES, THE LEAD SINGER OF PINK MARTINI IS MONOLINGUAL (MEANING SHE SPEAKS ONLY ONE LANGUAGE FLUENTLY), HOWEVER, SHE SINGS IN 15 LANGUAGES!**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ *Should music be political?*
- ◆ *How do political environments and situations feed into your favourite songs?*
- ◆ *How can music support political action?*
- ◆ *Besides being a communicative tool about various political views, what other tools can be music used for?*



## FURTHER RESOURCES

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:** <http://pinkmartini.com>

**CBS NEWS - “A BAND MIXING GLOBAL MUSIC” (VIDEO):** <https://cbsnews.com/video/pink-martini-a-band-mixing-global-music/>

**ALLMUSIC - BIOGRAPHY:** <https://allmusic.com/artist/pink-martini-mn0000345708/biography>

### TO LISTEN

*Pink Martini - Sympathique* ([Spotify](#))

### TO WATCH

*“Discover The World: Live Concert DVD”* (2009)

## SHARE THE MUSIC:

*Share the Music*, presented by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, aims to enhance and broaden students’ musical horizons by providing tickets to world-class performances and educational pre-concert workshops. Schools and community groups are invited to apply for complimentary *Share the Music* tickets to Pink Martini and other notable performances. For more information, please visit [mhrth.com/sharethemusic](http://mhrth.com/sharethemusic)

## CONTACT EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:

**EMAIL:** [education@mh-rth.com](mailto:education@mh-rth.com) **WEBSITE:** [mhrth.com/education](http://mhrth.com/education)

