

# ACTIVITIES

## PRE SHOW ACTIVITIES:

- 1.) Stephen Sondheim is known for drawing his inspiration from a variety of sources (examples include: fairy tales, works of art, as well as the artists' life, historical figures and current events). How can you create lyrics to a song inspired by people, real or imagined? ([click here for activity 1](#))
- 2.) Primary elements of music include tempo, pitch, dynamics, rhythm and instrumentation. How can these elements of music help a composer evoke a mood? ([click here for activity 2](#))
- 3.) The book of a musical is the words that are not sung. These include the character's lines and stage directions. How does the book of a musical inspire the lyrics of a song? ([click here for activity 3](#))



Stephen Sondheim, James Lapine 1985

## POST SHOW ACTIVITIES:

- 4.) As 2010 marks Stephen Sondheim's 80th Birthday, *Sondheim on Sondheim* is being produced as a celebration of his career as one of the leading musical theatre composer/lyricists. Write the lyrics to a song inspired by your experience of the show. You can address these lyrics to, about, or from the point of view of Stephen Sondheim. ([click here for activity 4](#))
- 5.) From the wide variety of music and lyrics Stephen Sondheim has written, "Send in the Clowns" from *A Little Night Music* most notably crossed the threshold of musical theatre into popular music on the radio. Think about a current song from popular music (possibly a song you've recently heard on the radio) that has similar elements to a song from *Sondheim on Sondheim* you particularly liked and remembered. ([click here for activity 5](#))
- 6.) The lyrics are a set of words that make up a song. How can the lyrics of a song inspire the book of a musical? ([click here for activity 6](#))

## RESOURCES

[The Stephen Sondheim Society](#)

[The Sondheim Review Official Website](#)

[The Official Vanessa Williams Website](#)

*The Sondheim Review*. Chicago: Sondheim Review, 1994-2010

Gottfried Martin. *Sondheim*. New York: H.N. Abrams, 2000.

Horowitz, Mark Eden and Sondheim, Stephen. *Sondheim on Music: Minor Details and Minor Decisions*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2003.

Kantor, Michael and Maslon, Laurence. *Broadway: The American Musical*. New York: Bulfinch Press, 2004.

*Broadway: The American Musical*. Ghost Light Films/WNET New York, 2004.

Secrest, Meryle. *Sondheim: A Life*. New York: Knopf, 1998.

Zaden, Craig. *Sondheim & Co*. London: Hern Books, 1990.

[The Official Website for Playwright & Director James Lapine](#)

[Official Website for Sondheim on Sondheim](#)



Stephen Sondheim 1972