

## While You Listen

- 1 Listen to a passage and identify Tracy and Maybelle from the pictures above and match the descriptions with the characters by putting the letters besides the corresponding character.

Tracy: \_\_\_\_\_

Maybelle: \_\_\_\_\_

- is a big teenage girl with big hair
- owns a record store
- organises a demonstration
- loves music and dancing
- dances together with all other teenagers, both black and white, in the competition
- becomes a dancer at the popular local television show
- hosts the *Corny Collins Show* on the day when black teenagers dance

- 2 Listen again and complete the following sentences with the information you get from the passage.

- The musical film *Hairspray* was released in \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.
- Tracy is \_\_\_\_\_ the *Corny Collins Show*.
- The black teenagers are permitted to be on the show once \_\_\_\_\_.
- Tracy believes that black and white teenagers should \_\_\_\_\_.
- At the end of the film, black and white teenagers dance together on \_\_\_\_\_ television for \_\_\_\_\_.

## After You Listen

Discuss the following questions in groups.

- What do you know about the racial problems in the United States?
- Have you seen the following musicals? Translate them into Chinese, select one of the musicals and talk about it.

*The Sound of Music*

*Westside Story*

*Mama Mia*

*My Fair Lady*

*Phantom of the Opera*

*Fiddler on the Roof*

*Beauty and the Beast*

*Cats*

*Rent*

## Module 2 Learn to Read

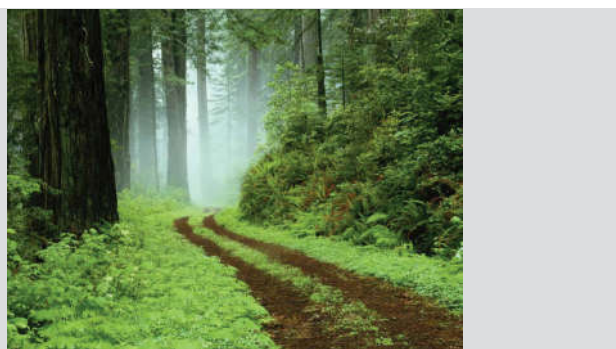
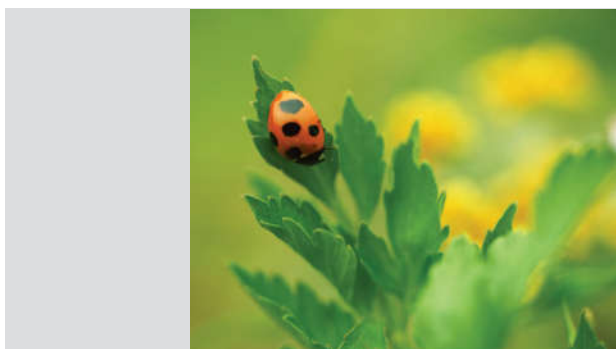
In this part, you are going to read two passages on the songs about spring and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*. After reading you are going to practise your comprehension and learn to use some English words and phrases.

### Warm-up questions

- Can you give a description of spring in English?
- Do you know any musical works about spring?
- What do you know about Beethoven's symphonies? Is his *Symphony No. 5* your favourite?

### Passage A

#### Songs about Spring Can Be Happy or Sad



Spring has come and brought with it many reasons to **celebrate**. In the spring time, many people may **think of** the **classical** music piece by the same name, spring. It is the **Allegro** from **Concerto** Number One of the *Four Seasons*. Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi wrote it in the 1700s.

Spring is a wonderful season to celebrate rebirth and new life. The long, cold winter is over. The weather is warmer and **sunnier**. The trees again have leaves and the flowers are **blooming**. The season **represents** hope, **joy** and beauty.

However, not all songs about spring are happy. *I Dream of Spring* by K.D. Lang is about dreaming of spring in cold dark places. She recorded the song in 2008. **Unlike** the other seasons, there are not many **rock** songs about spring. Most of the songs about this season were written in the 1930s–1940s by famous modern composers. The songs became “**standards**”, popular songs recorded by many singers. *It Might as Well Be Spring* is one example. Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II wrote

the song for the movie *State Fair* in 1945. Frank Sinatra sings about having “spring fever”. This is not a real sickness. It is a feeling of **restlessness** or **excitement brought on** by the coming of spring. Richard Rodgers also wrote *Spring Is Here*, but this time with Lorenz Hart. Ella Fitzgerald sings the song about feeling **lonely** during this season.

Frank Loesser wrote the sad song, *Spring Will Be a Little Late This Year*. Why has the season been **delayed**? Because the singer’s lover has left her. Sarah Vaughn released her **version** of the song in 1953.

By now you may be thinking: “Enough with the sad songs, already!” OK, then **how about a cowboy** song? Gene Autry was one of America’s most famous singing cowboys. He recorded *When It’s Springtime in the Rockies* in 1937.

In most of the United States, spring is a warm and **pleasant** season. But this is not the **case** in the northwestern state of Alaska. According to Johnny Cash, it can be **extremely** cold. He sings *When It’s Springtime in Alaska (It’s Forty Below)*.

## • Notes •

1. Antonio Vivaldi 安东尼奥·维瓦尔第 (1675—1741)。巴洛克时期意大利著名的作曲家、小提琴家，最著名的作品是小提琴协奏曲《四季》。

2. *Four Seasons* 《四季》。

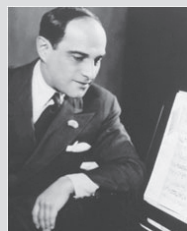
3. K. D. Lang: K. D. 朗格 (原名 Kathryn Dawn Lang) (1961—)。加拿大创作型女歌手，曾获格莱美奖，被授予加拿大勋章。



4. Richard Rodgers 理查德·罗杰斯 (1902—1979)。美国作曲家，创作了多部杰出的作品，如《俄克拉荷马》《旋转木马》等。

5. Oscar Hammerstein II 奥斯卡·汉默斯坦二世 (1895—1960)。英国著名音乐人、歌词作家、音乐剧制片人、导演。

6. *State Fair* 《博览会之约》(或《坠入爱河》)(1945)。



7. Lorenz Hart 劳伦茨·哈特 (1895—1943)。美国抒情诗人，曾与理查德·罗杰斯合作。

8. Ella Fitzgerald 埃拉·菲茨杰拉德 (1917—1996)。美国黑人爵士乐歌手。



9. Frank Loesser 弗兰克·罗瑟 (1910—1969)。美国作曲家。

10. Gene Autry 基恩·奥特里 (原名 Orvin Gene Autry) (1907—1998)。是牛仔乡村音乐的代表，1969年获得乡村音乐名人堂 (Country Music Hall of Fame) 荣誉。

11. Rockies 落基山脉 (同 Rocky Mountains)。

12. Alaska 阿拉斯加。

