The Power of Music
Unit 8: Composing Music
Jon Deak on the growth of Very Young Composers
Video clip transcript

JON DEAK, COMPOSER/FOUNDER, NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC VERY YOUNG COMPOSERS:
Very Young Composers has been in existence about fifteen years. It started in Denver in the Denver public schools, with the Meet the Composer Foundation, and came back to the New York Philharmonic. And about four years ago, I began to do the program full time and it’s now spread out in about six cities across the U.S. and has been introduced into eight foreign countries. So we’re on four continents now. And believe me, it’s fascinating.

You know what we have? We have kids writing postcards from Finland to England, to New York City, to Colorado, to Minnesota. It’s amazing that kids want to write to each other, but not in words. They write music, they take each other’s themes...to Venezuela. We have a whole bunch of kids in Venezuela writing themes — post cards that have been played in Avery Fisher Hall.