Enduring Understandings:

Students will understand that...
- Rodgers and Hammerstein had a specific set of musical and lyrical devices they used frequently in their writing.
- Context plays a pivotal role in the performance of Musical Theatre songs.

Essential Questions:
- Who was Oscar Hammerstein II?
- How and when did Rodgers & Hammerstein’s collaboration begin?
- Why was “Oklahoma!” the first wholly successful musical play?

Students will know...
- the definition of the term “musical play”.
- the definition of the term “subplot”.
- the origins of the Broadway cast recording.

Students will be able to...
- identify Agnes DeMille and her contributions to American Musical Theatre.
- identify Rodgers and Hammerstein’s major works.

Performance Task(s):
“You will need to pick one Rodgers & Hammerstein show. You will research your show and write a 1-2 page report in which you will outline the major plot points of the show and also talk about the events leading up to the very first Broadway production of the show. Events may include how they came up with the idea, any significant moments in the lives of either Richard Rodgers or Oscar Hammerstein that influenced one or more aspects of the production, and where the production had its out-of-town tryouts. You will also find and learn one song from the show to be performed in front of the class. On the day of performance, you will give a brief synopsis of the show and then describe the scene in which your song takes place. You will then perform your song for your classmates.”

Key Criteria:
- accurate outline of facts
- complete explanation of plot
- clear articulation of song context

Learning Plan:
Performance Task Overview: Students will choose one Rodgers & Hammerstein show to research. They will then be asked to write a 1-2 page paper outlining key plot points and major events that led to the first Broadway production of the show. They will give a brief presentation to the class in which they will give a brief synopsis of the show as well as the scene in which their song takes place.

1.) Students should understand the importance of warm-ups and preparation, and how it can be focused to the type of work they will be doing. The warm-up activities for this lesson will
include a Viewpoints exercise called “To and Against” to illustrate the connection between music and the body. Other warm-ups will include vocal and physical warm-ups to become energized, focused and ready to work.

2.) Students will be shown the opening scene to the 2003 London revival of “Oklahoma!”

3.) Students will be divided into small groups and will be asked to discuss within their groups everything they already know about Rodgers & Hammerstein, including songs, shows, and any facts about their lives. They will share their lists with the class.

4.) Students will be given a brief overview of Oscar Hammerstein II’s early life and career, as well as a brief overview of the musical “Oklahoma!”

5.) Students will choose one Rodgers & Hammerstein musical to research and write a 1-2 page paper on in which they will include an overview of major plot points and details about the production process. They will also choose one song from the song to perform in class.

6.) Students will give a presentation in class detailing the synopsis of the show and the scene in which their song takes place. They will then perform their song for their classmates.

7.) Students will review what they learned about Rodgers & Hammerstein in an in-class discussion.