

## Composer Study, March 19-20, 2020

Try to narrate what you remember about Rodgers and Hammerstein and the two musicals we have studied—*Oklahoma* and *South Pacific*.

Today we will finish studying *South Pacific*. We have talked about how the song writing team took a couple of stories from the book written by a Navy veteran of World War II.

You might be wondering how the musical did. Was it a hit like *Oklahoma* or did it fizzle like *Allegro*? *South Pacific* was a hit and, like *Oklahoma*, won a Pulitzer Prize! It won major awards, and the album was a bestseller. In

2008, a revival ran for a thousand shows so *South Pacific* has stood the test of time.

Today we are going to listen to four songs. Nellie, a Navy nurse, has to decide if she is going to marry the French man and live in the South Pacific or return to the United States.

All four songs are very short. You can listen to all four and pick your favorite. Narrate why it is your favorite.

In “Cockeyed Optimist,” Nellie explains to the French man why she believes everything will turn out all

right even though things are tough because of the war.

Then she and another officer sing about how homesick they are in “My Girl Back Home.” Meanwhile, a bunch of sailors live on an island where there are no women except the Navy nurses.

The USNA glee club sings a song called, “There is Nothing like a Dame.”

The last song, “Dites Moi,” is French, of course, and we learn what Nellie decides to do.