Visualizing Urban Soundscapes

Directions: Look at the images of John Davies Manhattan Soundscape Project and read about the inspiration and method. You will create a visualization of your neighborhood’s soundscape based on your own experiences. Use the guiding questions and sketching space below to start to plan your own soundscape.

John Davies creates his Soundscapes based on a key venue and a song. You will also base your soundscapes on a key venue and a song.

What is a key place in your mind? Think about your school, a special room at home, a relative or friend’s house, a park, a library, or a favorite restaurant.

What are some of the sounds that you might hear in this place? What are some sound words you associate with this place? Draw small images that you associate with these sounds.
Do you associate a song with this place? Think of a song that you like or that you think fits the mood or the soundscape of your key place. There are no wrong answers!

Artist:
Track:
Year:
Listen to that song once through thinking about the *volume*, the *pace*, the *beat*, the *instruments*, and the *lyrics*. Listen to the song again and this time draw a horizon line that matches the flow of the song.

**Example:**
Artist: Idina Menzel
Track: “Let it Go”
Year: 2013
Draw a base map for the area you would like your soundscape to cover. *Is it going to be just the floor plan of a building? Is it going to be a few blocks? Is it going to be your whole borough? It may be helpful to look at a map.*
Think about what materials you would like to use to make your soundscape three-dimensional. Think about the color, texture, shape, height and width, and how you will assemble the materials starting with a cardboard base. Create a key for the types of materials, heights, and/or colors you will use to create your soundscape. Using the key you have created, color code your plan.

*Hint:* You can use aluminum foil, newspaper, colored construction paper (think how you can make this 3-D), macaroni or pasta noodles, sticks, rocks, plastic bottles, bottle caps, etc.! Be creative.

*Key:*

Start making your model! Transfer your plan to a cardboard base and create from there.