

2022 Paint to Music

Music Selection Information

Getting Started with your Artwork and Tips for Participation

After listening to the three music selections and reading the descriptions, pick ONE to be the inspiration for your artwork. Once you've chosen your music selection, now it's time to plan your artwork.

What are you going to draw or paint? How is it related to the music? It could also be related to the composer or to the concert theme of *Music and Dance*.

What materials are you going to use? Will you use pencils, crayons, markers, or paint? You may also use chalk or pastels, or you could create a collage.

What type of paper will you use? You may create your artwork on any type of paper or canvas. Size is important, however; make sure your paper or canvas is no smaller than a normal letter-sized sheet of paper. It should also be no larger than 12 x 18 inches. You may need to use a ruler.

Create your artwork while listening to your chosen music selection. Your teacher will use the Spotify playlist for you to listen to. Be sure to fully color in the entire area of your paper or canvas. You may need several sessions to complete.

Don't forget to have fun, and let the music take you away. Thanks for participating!

Music Selection Descriptions

"Hoedown" from *Rodeo* – Aaron Copland

Copland composed *Rodeo* in 1942 as a ballet to be choreographed by Agnes de Mille for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She initially described it to him as "the story of *The Taming of the Shrew* — cowboy style." *Hoe-Down* makes use of several traditional fiddle tunes, most specifically the square-dance number *Bonyparte* and, a few measures of McLeod's *Reel* played in folk fiddle style. Pizzicato strings and xylophone add a comic effect to *Bonyparte*, and the music winds down before the tune returns for the last time. The polyrhythmic "vamps" (derived from jazz and rural American sources) add humor, lightness, and zest.

Copland's ballet *Rodeo* tells the story of a cowgirl who is in love with a cowboy, but just can't get him to notice her. Once she finally does, she decides that she'd rather spend time with another cowboy who was nice to her all along.

***Huapango* – José Pablo Moncayo**

Huapango is based upon popular themes from the Mexican state of Veracruz, on the Gulf of Mexico. Moncayo was sent there to collect music indigenous to the area, and the orchestra fantasy based upon some of those themes was the result. A *huapango* is a Mexican folk dance and a musical style, played by a small group of instrumentalists, a violin and two different sizes of guitars. The varying rhythms of the traditional *huapango* match the complex dance steps of the dancers.

Moncayo's sparkling and imaginative orchestration keeps the interest up—its light and colorful palette is similar to much French music. The lilting, galloping rhythm, with familiar Mexican syncopations carries us through a series of charming solos until a softer and slower middle section, initially carried by the woodwinds, provides some contrast. After a bit, the tempo kicks up again, and an exciting, breezy drive to conclusion ensues.

***Firebird Suite* (1919) – Igor Stravinsky**

The Firebird is a patchwork tale, whose story and characters are drawn from several sources in Russian folklore. In the *Introduction*, Prince Ivan, while hunting, discovers an enchanted garden wherein dwells the magical Firebird, and captures her. The murky opening notes, intoned by strings, low winds and brasses, establish the mythic nature of the story. In exchange for her freedom, the Firebird gives Ivan one of her magic feathers in the *Dance of the Firebird*. Ivan continues his hunt and finds the castle in which the evil King Kashchei is holding 13 princesses captive. To amuse themselves, the princesses dance in the castle courtyard to a lyrical oboe solo while playing with golden apples. The princesses tell Ivan that Kashchei turns people into stone. Ivan, protected by the Firebird's magic feather, provokes Kashchei. Suddenly the Firebird appears and enchants Kashchei and his hideous ogres, causing them to dance themselves into exhaustion in the *Infernal Dance*. After they collapse, the Firebird's gentle *Lullaby*, an eerie bassoon melody, lulls them to an eternal sleep. The princesses and all of Kashchei's stone victims are freed, and the *Finale* captures their joy with dazzling, triumphant chords.