

The Quapaw Quartet Presents *Picturing Music*

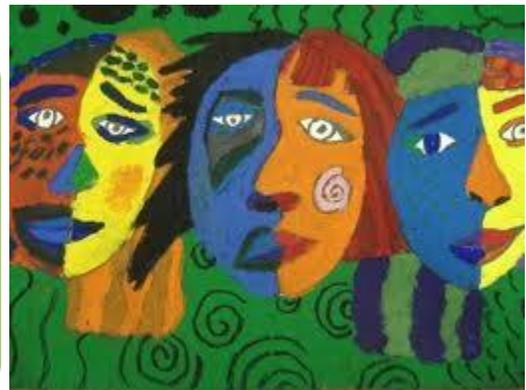
We can learn about history in many different ways. In school, we usually divide history into time periods that begin and end with important events such as wars or discoveries. Students learn about the Age of Exploration, Revolutionary War Era and the Civil War Era. When you study an age or era, you learn about the problems of the time and the events that lead up to the important wars or conflicts. You've probably looked at pictures of important battles on land and sea.

When you study the history of music and art you look at the past a little differently. When studying art, you look at how the artists worked. You look at the **techniques** they used. Here's an example:



*An artist named Botticelli painted these women. He is a famous **Renaissance** Era painter. **Renaissance** painters painted women as beautiful and very real or as they actually looked to him.*

*An artist named Pablo Picasso painted these women. He is a famous modern day painter who painted in many different ways. He painted this group of women. You can tell they are women but they don't look very beautiful or real. They look more like a cartoon. That is often called **abstract art**.*



As you can see there is a big difference in the way these two artists painted, just as there are differences in the reasons that different wars began. There are also differences in how music has been written or composed over the years.

The history of European and American music is often broken up into periods of time according to the compositional techniques used. **Composers** in the same periods often used similar musical formats, scales and patterns. Music often reflects the art of the time as well as styles of furniture, buildings, and clothes. Let's look at some examples of this idea in different time periods.

Baroque (1600's):

Notice that the rooms and furniture have extra pieces and curls. This is called **ornamentation**. Baroque music also uses many ornamental notes.



The **texture** of music during the Baroque times can be described as "busy." There are lots of notes and often even more notes added to the music by the musician. An example which will be performed comes from **The Art of the Fugue Contrapunctus VII** by Bach. A harpsichord version on YouTube is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SniIITqeorA>

Classical (1700's): Buildings of this period have repeating patterns and are very symmetrical with no extra ornamentation as in the Baroque items.

Once a classical **composer** decides to write a piece of music, he or she follows a strict set of composing rules. Composers wrote **melodies** based upon short ideas called themes. As the music goes along, the composer often uses the themes many times. (You can hear them over and over.) When they are repeated, sometimes the composer changes how they sound just a little bit to add interest. Symphony, sonata, and opera are different kinds of classical music that use this **technique**. An example played by the quartet comes from Haydn's **Quartet No. 42, Op. 76, No. 3, Movement 1**, which is on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1gwtCA_gec

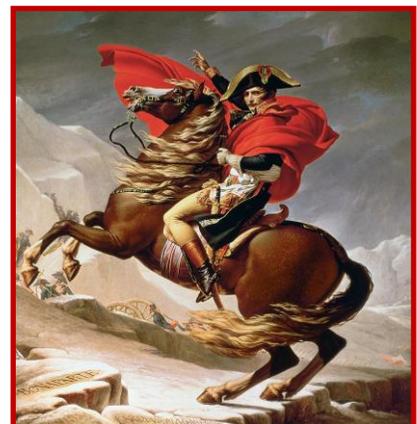


Romantic (1800's): Architecture of this era added rounded walls and porches to make buildings look grander. Art pictured elegant people or scenes from nature showing various emotions such as hopefulness, peacefulness, anger or love. Music written during the Romantic era often had long **melodies**. The composers did not stick

to as many rules as in the Classical Period.

Composers used contrasting loud and soft **dynamics** and thin and thick **textures** in the music to show feeling and emotion. They used **harmony** that sometimes clashed with the melody to increase the feeling of tension. The quartet will play part of Beethoven's **Quartet No. 8, Op. 59, No. 2, Movement 4** on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKUGbI1LaQk>.



Napoleon Crossing the Alps
by Jacques Louis David

Impressionism:

Impressionistic art **technique** uses dots or small areas of color that made paintings more blurred. Musical composers based their musical works on these paintings blurring melodies by blending them into the overall **texture** of the piece.



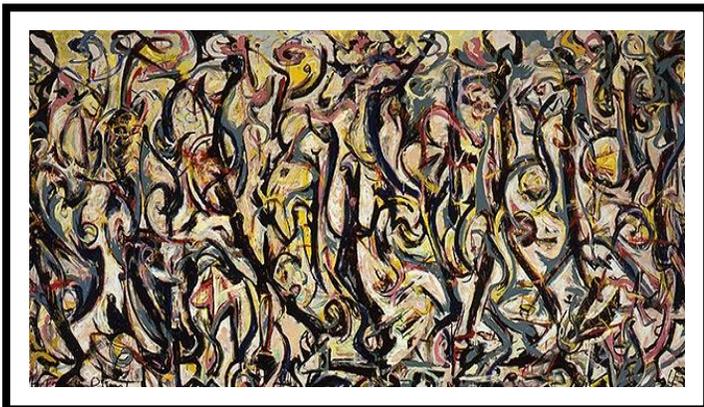
Girl with a Watering Can
by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 1876



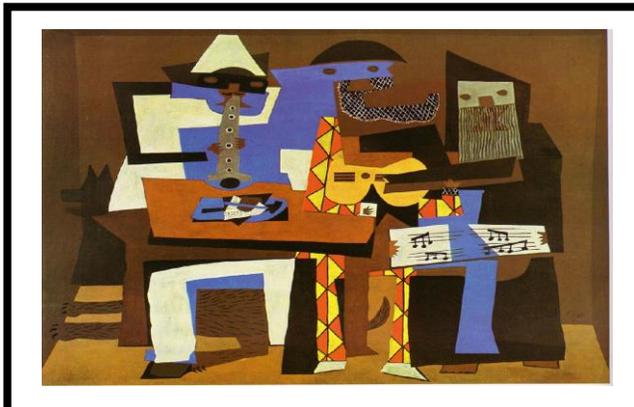
The Artist's Garden at Giverny
by Claude Monet, 1900

The quartet will perform excerpts from Debussy's **Quartet, Op. 10, Movement 1**, which is on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pRJ2NAQetY>.

20th Century: Artists in the 20th Century often focused on abstract art that is not as easy to understand at first glance. Here are two examples:



Mural by Jackson Pollock, 1949



The Three Musicians by Pablo Picasso, 1921

In music composed in the 20th Century, you can hear traditional and new instruments used to create new sounds. Melodies you will hear are more difficult to sing back because they jump around. Composers in this era did not worry about following rules. Instead, they created music using what they thought were interesting sounds.



The quartet will perform part of **Quartet No. 2, Movement 1**, by Jefferson Friedman (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvigLhP2Wxc>.) Friedman is an American composer, born in 1974 in Swampscott, Massachusetts. He studied music at The Juilliard School and Columbia University in New York City. His music has received numerous awards and has been performed across the United States and around the world.

After the Performance: In the space below, write about how the art and music were the same during two or more of the following periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic and 20th Century. Use vocabulary and give examples of art from this handout or from the music in the Quapaw Quartet performance.

Historical Period	Art	Music

Vocabulary

abstract art - a non-lifelike portrayal of real world objects and people.
architecture - style or design of a building
composer - a person who writes music.
dynamics (in music) - how loud or soft the music is.
harmony - a musical term for notes used in a musical piece that provide background for the melody.
melody - a long passage of music forming a theme that you can recognize as in a song.
ornamentation - something that decorates or adorns.

Renaissance - an age of European history from the 1400's to the 1600's when the arts flourished
symmetrical - when both sides of an object divided down the middle are the same or balanced.
technique - a skill used to create a work of art such as paint brush strokes or use of color.
texture (in music) - the way the melody, rhythm and harmony combine in a composition.

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