

## Music and Art

Music and the visual arts have long been intertwined. This week we have found fabulous resources about artists inspired by music, musicians inspired by art and lots of ideas to help your children to be creative themselves.

### Art Inspired By Music

How could you create a work of art to a piece of music? By drawing, painting, or even making a video! Lots of artists have been inspired by music, you could find music to paint to, maybe choose something relaxing to begin with. Or you could find a painting, and compose your own piece of music for it.

### **Stravinsky's Firebird BBC Ten Pieces**

The BBC Ten Pieces at home is a great place to access really interesting activities based around pieces of classical music. Here is an 3D sculpture art activity based on the Russian composer Stravinsky's piece The Firebird. The music is very exciting, and so it might inspire you to make something really creative!

<http://tiny.cc/ote9pz>



There are so many links to Art and Music, between colours and sounds, and there is a lot to explore! One of my favourite YouTube videos is a graphic score of **Debussy's Clair de Lune**, which you can find here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlvUepMa31o&feature=youtu.be>

There are lots of these scores to watch online, some are for full orchestra pieces which can get very complicated! How does the graphic artist use colour and shape to describe what he is hearing? Does the graphic score help you understand the composition better?

There are similarities between the artists colour wheel and the composers circle of fifths, which you can find more about here:

<http://www.musanim.com/HarmonicColoring/>

Other video artists have created cartoons to illustrate music - here is

one of my favourites - **Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue**:

<http://tiny.cc/7xe9pz>



In fact some famous musicians and artists have a condition called synesthesia which can mean sounds are seen as colours, or even smells! The painter **Wassily Kandinsky** saw colours when he heard music, and he even said "Music is the ultimate teacher". You can find a bit more about him here, and even try out some of his techniques:

<https://art-educ4kids.weebly.com/kandinsky-inspirations.html>



## Musicians Inspired By Art



The French composer Debussy composed La Mer (The Sea) after seeing "The Great Wave" by the Japanese artist Hokusai.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoBdza27uoA>

## Songs About Artists

You might have heard of the painter Vincent Van Gogh, or the English painter LS Lowry. They both had very unique style of painting, and their life stories inspired people to write songs about them.

### L. S. Lowry

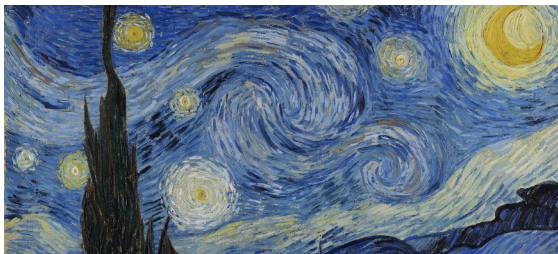
Did you know that Lowry visited Northumberland, and painted scenes of Berwick? Maybe you could draw a picture of your street in a Lowry style. The song **Matchstalk Men** by 1970s duo Brian and Michael is a tribute to the artist.

<http://tiny.cc/mmf9pz>



### Vincent Van Gogh

Vincent Van Gogh painted using very bold colours and brush strokes. He was not famous when he was alive, but now his paintings inspire millions! You don't need to have oil paints to paint like Van Gogh, you can even use crayons, and there are online apps that can make your artwork look like one of his paintings.

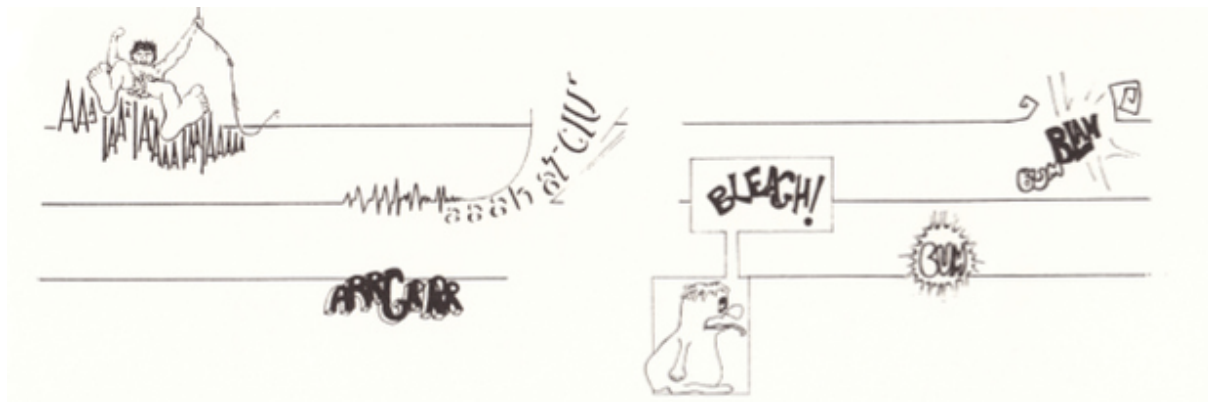


His life and work inspired the American songwriter Don McLean to write Starry Starry Night.

<https://youtu.be/dipFMJckZOM>

## Graphic Musical Notation

Graphic notation was used by experimental composers from the 1950s onwards. The musician uses the shapes, drawings, colours, or squiggles to inspire or guide their performance.



Classic FM have some beautiful examples of graphic notation.

<http://tiny.cc/nnf9pz>

For a really straightforward, four minute long guide to composing your own piece of music with a graphic score, suitable for all ages and abilities, see here:

<http://tiny.cc/64e9pz>

And here is an wonderful activity where students make doodles and drawings in response to a piece of music, then use their drawings as a graphic score to create their own music.

<http://resources.bcmg.org.uk/creating-music-at-home/doodling-varese>

## Songs for Younger Children

A song about colour mixing

<https://youtu.be/lwfZvRuE7s8>

Lines and mark making

<https://youtu.be/DQEVllmeWH4>