

ART & MUSIC: Striking the Right Note . . . A VMFA Gallery Hunt

A symphony is a long piece of music with three or more parts or movements performed by a symphony orchestra, but the word can also mean “a pleasing combination of sound or color.” Have you ever thought about the ways in which art and music are alike? Explore some of these connections in the VMFA galleries!



European Art Galleries, Baroque Art Gallery, Level 2:

Dutch artist Jan de Heem chose his colors carefully to enhance this painting’s composition. Do you find his color choices pleasing? Which other paintings in this gallery have “symphonies” of color? _____



European Art Galleries, 18th-Century Gallery, Level 2:

Artifacts from ancient Greece and Rome inspired 18th-century artists and composers to create works with clean, clear lines and bright colors. Painters often chose subjects from ancient history such as the Roman mother in this painting by Angelica Kauffmann. What is the mother’s name? _____



Ancient Art Galleries, Greek and Roman Gallery, Level 2:

In music the word “contrast” refers to a striking difference between the parts of a composition—like soft and loud or fast and slow. Contrast also denotes differences in a work of art. Describe an example of contrast in this work: _____



American Art Galleries, Level 2:

Musical instruments are often pictured in works of art. Name two musical instruments that appear in *Three Ladies Making Music* by Benjamin West: _____



Ancient American Art Galleries, Level 2:

In art, the word “rhythm” refers to the repetition of shapes, lines, and forms. In music, it means the patterns made by sounds and silence. Describe a rhythm that appears in the decorations on this Peruvian whistle: _____



Art Nouveau Galleries, Level 3:

Music is connected with dance all over the world—and both music and dance have inspired many works of art. What is the name of the dance that this figure is performing? _____



African Art Galleries, Level 2:

Many composers have been influenced by folk music and instruments. This Mangbetu harp, adorned with a carving of a woman’s head, was played by musicians to accompany the reciting of epic poems about heroes and the singing of praises to ancestors. Can you think of a poem or song about a hero? _____

Thanks for taking this musical journey through the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts! Try making your own works of art inspired by music! Please share your pictures at <http://vmfaeducation.tumblr.com>.

Note: Pencils only permitted in the galleries. Thank you.

Answers
1. Your choice 2. Cornelia, Mother of the Gracchi 3. The contrast between red figures and black background is a great example.
4. Two tambourines and a piano 5. The step-like shapes create a pattern 6. The scarf Dance 7. Your choice

