

MUSIC ACTIVITY: LISTENING AND RESPONDING

This activity requires access to a device with speakers and an internet connection to connect to YouTube (or a CD player and a CD of music from *The Magic Flute*). This activity can be adapted to use any artistic materials, and can be done as a full class activity or within small groups.

Step 1

Distribute drawing materials to students; each student needs their own paper and pencil crayons/markers/pastels/paint.

Step 2

Choose any piece from *The Magic Flute* to listen to as a class. Have students seated, and ask them to close their eyes. The goal of this activity is to practice active listening, meaning we are focusing attention on what we are listening to, rather than simply hearing music in the background. Encourage students to imagine what is happening within the piece; how is the character feeling, what instruments do you hear.

Step 3

Play the piece (or an excerpt of a piece depending on the length) once through with students sitting with eyes closed, and actively listening.

Step 4

Play the same piece a second time through; this time students can draw while listening. Encourage students to draw an abstract image of the song; what colours do they imagine the music; is the music moving in sharp, jagged movements, or smoothly flowing. [Younger students may need their teacher to model an abstract musical response before doing this activity.]

Step 5

As a class or in table groups, discuss and share what different students drew. Have them point to a specific part of their drawing, and recall what part of the piece that was from, or why they chose to draw that.



The Magic Flute by Oana Bolog-Bleich (2013)