

Picture This: What's the Story?

Directions: Below you will find 18 wind band pieces along with links to listen to them on YouTube. Each work has either an actual story behind it, or is musically portraying an event or setting. Choose one or two for this activity.

First, research the piece to find descriptions or program notes to learn the backstory. Usually doing a search on the title and composer will produce information. Otherwise, two good websites to seek out are www.windliterature.org or www.windrep.org. Often, composers will also have websites (most of these composers are still living!).

After reading about and listening to the work, give examples of how the composer musically portrays what is happening. Include such things as:

- How do they use particular sections or instruments to portray characters or moods?
- How do they use recurring themes, note and rhythm patterns, volume, dynamics, etc. to paint a picture with music?

Think of these as a “soundtrack without a movie”, and discuss how the composer brings a visual image to life through the music. What do you “visualize” while listening?

1. *Tam O'Shanter* by Malcolm Arnold/Arr. John Paynter
<https://youtu.be/rgF6A0qyYII>
2. *Cartoon* by Paul Hart
<https://youtu.be/6SBIQ7aqyL4>
3. *Wine-Dark Sea* by John Mackey
<https://youtu.be/NoP4OyfUIbE>
4. *Of Sailors and Whales* by W. Francis McBeth
<https://youtu.be/89P7KBEteis>
5. *Internal Combustion* by David Gillingham
<https://youtu.be/Agzh8A7Udas>
6. *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas* by Eric Whitacre
<https://youtu.be/kDapY4BitZo>
7. *To Tame the Perilous Skies* by David Holsinger
<https://youtu.be/XHky62EPL-o>
8. *La Fiesta Mexicana* by H. Owen Reed
 - Prelude and Aztec Dance: <https://youtu.be/z8P78GfYy2g>
 - Mass: <https://youtu.be/nZxA8FXKmLA>
 - Carnival: <https://youtu.be/eifzmuhqKJk>

9. *Vesuvius* by Frank Ticheli
<https://youtu.be/9O8oMCKeCaI>
10. *Music for Prague 1968* by Karel Husa
- I. Introduction and Fanfare: <https://youtu.be/QFgsMGC2jI0>
 - II. Aria: <https://youtu.be/xrFxD4JSrA>
 - III. Interlude: <https://youtu.be/zdhqNSMyUNU>
 - IV. Toccata and Chorale: <https://youtu.be/mygU0TYbN14>
11. *Come Sunday* by Omar Thomas
<https://youtu.be/vZDB8OhQP4Y>
12. *Ghost Train: I. The Ride* by Eric Whitacre
<https://youtu.be/ZhhL7pA6h1E>
13. *Heroes, Lost and Fallen* by David Gillingham
<https://youtu.be/CnkOMinWPos>
14. *Desi* by Michael Daugherty
<https://youtu.be/FmFXXUjNRhQ>
15. *Asphalt Cocktail* by John Mackey
<https://youtu.be/knGTemQpdL8>
16. *Slalom* by Carter Pann
<https://youtu.be/uDNPD-qQMsg>
17. *Khan* by Julie Giroux
<https://youtu.be/XEFX31yHqKs>
18. *A Light Unto the Darkness* by David Gillingham
https://youtu.be/N1Cep_Xs6Dw

Student Name: _____

First Selection:

_____ by _____

What are some examples of specific things the composer did to portray a character, mood, or event as related to the background of the work?

What did you visualize while listening?

Second Selection:

_____ by _____

What are some examples of specific things the composer did to portray a character, mood, or event as related to the background of the work?

What did you visualize while listening?
