



Adventures in Music 2012



Music in Motion

FEATURING *YOUR* STUDENTS' PAINTINGS!

Do your students enjoy listening to music? Do they enjoy expressing themselves through art? How about creating a work of art inspired by a musical composition? If so, this opportunity is for your students and you!

Our Music, Our Language: The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra is pleased to present another season of ***Adventures in Music***. In the 2011-2012 season students will discover how music inspires dance, imagery, movies and movement. Bring your students to explore the world of music through movement and dance!

Artwork Submissions: We have selected a well known composition by Richard Wagner, entitled *Ride of the Valkyries*, with which to feature student artwork. During the performance, student artwork, inspired by this composition, will be projected on a screen behind the orchestra. *Ride of the Valkyries* is 3 minutes, 10 seconds long. Approximately 35-40 images will be shown throughout the live performance. It is our hope that students will be inspired by *Ride of the Valkyries* and will create their own personal visual response to the music.

The Classroom and the Creative Process: We have designed a unit plan that honours the creative process and integrates the repertoire with the Visual Arts curriculum framework. The unit plan offers a rich and valuable learning experience for your students, regardless of whether or not the images become part of the actual WSO performance. We invite you to share the music with your students and journey together through the process of creating visual responses – and then share the results with us!

Criteria:

All submissions must observe the following criteria:

- A **maximum sheet size of 11 x 17** can be used.
- All media are accepted, but please consider options that best relate to *Ride of the Valkyries* on paper. (See lesson plan for suggested media.)
- Each submission **must** include the student's name, grade level and name of school.

Deadline:

- All submissions must be received by the WSO office by **Friday, January 13, 2012 at 4:00pm.**
- Student art will not be returned unless arrangements are made by the teacher before Friday, February 11, 2012.

NOTE: *Please feel free to include this request with your submission, and arrangements will be made for the artwork to be picked up when your school attends the concert in February or March.*

Send submission to:

Amy Wolfe, Education and Outreach Coordinator
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
1020-555 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1C3

“Ride of the Valkyries” by Richard Wagner

Visual Arts Unit

****Please note that the following visual arts unit is supported with a Power Point presentation. The PowerPoint consists of images and questions that are designed to guide students through a learning journey inspired by ‘Ride of the Valkyries’ and with an emphasis on line, colour, and visual movement and energy in art. We strongly recommend using the PowerPoint to support your exploration of Adventures in Music 2011-12.***

***Please contact Amy Wolfe, Education and Outreach Coordinator
(949-3977 or awolfe@wso.mb.ca) to receive your copy.***

1) Preliminary Exploration (PE): *The deeper the preliminary exploration the richer your students’ ideas will be for creative expression!*

PE1-A) Listen to Richard Wagner’s *Ride of the Valkyries*, **as an artist.**

- Suggested: Listen with your eyes closed. Focus on the energy portrayed by the music.

PE1-B) Discuss: What did you hear? Together as a class, generate/brainstorm descriptive words in response to the music.

- *Where does this music take you in your imagination?*
- *Describe the energy or movement in the music.*
- *How did you feel listening to the music? Describe your feelings.*
- *What kinds of lines does the music suggest? Connect your ideas to the music.*
- *What colours did you see? Warm, cool, vibrant, subdued? Describe the colours.*
- *Does the music seem to be telling you a story? If so, what might the story be about? What images came into your head while you were listening? Connect your story to the sounds in the music.*
- *What is Richard Wagner saying to you through his music?*
- *If you could ask Richard Wagner a question about this music – what would you ask him?*
- *What are you wondering about?*

PE2-A) Listen with Mark Making: Students respond through mark making to the music. Use large paper and media such as wax crayon, oil pastels, vine charcoal or tempera paint.

PE2-B) Look at Mark Making and Discuss: Together as a class, view and discuss the visual characteristics of the marks made in response to the music. Connect to energy and movement. Look at line and colour. Record language and ideas.

PE3-A) Listen with Movement: Students respond physically with their bodies to the music. (Tip: To accommodate the energy in this music, be sure to have enough room to establish personal space for each student.)

PE3-B) Discuss: How did you respond to the music using movement? Together as a class, discuss how you used your body to respond to the music. *What story did you tell using body movement? How could your movements develop into a dance? What would the dance look like? What would you wear? What kind of lighting would you use?* Explore this idea if students are interested. Record language and ideas.

PE4) Preliminary Reflection: Review language you have collected from your preliminary exploration through listening, mark making and movement. Together identify themes and ideas running through your collective experiences. Sketch some of your preliminary ideas!

2) Visual Exploration: PowerPoint

It is suggested that you use the PowerPoint designed to support this Arts and Music exploration. Questions regarding motion, energy, movement, line and colour are imbedded into the PowerPoint.

Note to Teachers: Learning to discuss and express ideas and opinions about a work of art develops observational skills and critical thinking skills, and is an integral part of both the visual arts and music curriculums. Take time to look, ask questions and discuss answers.

3) Developing an Idea for Creative Expression

Intent: To develop unique and individual ideas for a work of art in response to Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries*.

- Reflect on preliminary ideas explored through listening, mark making and movement.
- Make connections to images in PowerPoint: *What surprised you? What new ideas do you have?*
- Think about: visual and musical energy, movement, motion, lines, colours, story, message
- Questions to ask:
 - *What new ideas do you have after looking at other artists' work?*
 - *What do you want someone looking at your artwork to think about? What clues will you give them to help them to better understand your message?*
 - *How do you want to use art to express how you feel about Wagner's music?*
- Think/Pair/Share
- Generate new ideas!
- Capture ideas in sketches and drawings
- Large group discussion

4) Media Exploration

It is important to explore a variety of media and media combinations to see what kinds of visual effects are possible and what media best communicates what your students wish to express. *Ride of the Valkyries* is full of energy and movement. Explore media that allows students to make immediate marks and that allows for layering of "visual sounds". Combining and layering various media also enriches the visual effect. Ask the students what media or media combination they think best communicates the music. Consider giving them choices.

Suggested media to explore and layer:

- Wax crayons or oil pastel and watercolour resist
- Acrylic paint or tempa paint – try painting on coloured paper
- Watercolour, water soluble felt markers and chalk pastels
- Oil pastels on darker coloured paper. (blue, black, purple, dark brown)
- Collaged shapes cut from coloured paper, add oil pastel then watercolour.
- Pencil crayon, graphite pencil, markers, wax crayon and watercolour
- Reduction Printmaking

Suggested Reference Text for Media Exploration:

Teaching Art: A Complete Guide for the Classroom by Rhian Brynjolson 2009

- Chapter 6: Drawing Media
- Chapter 12: Learning to Paint
- Chapter 13: Exploring Paint with Beginners
- Chapter 14: Watercolour
- Chapter 15: Collage and Mixed Media
- Chapter 16: Printmaking

5) Completing your Final Work of Art:

Once media and composition have been established, students will complete their final creative expressions inspired by *Ride of the Valkyries*.

6) Reflecting on Learning:

It is critical that students have an opportunity to reflect on their learning journey to identify and celebrate their process and growth. Reflection should happen both during the creative process and at the end of the project. Displaying students' artwork and discussing, in a non-judgmental environment, is integral to learning. Consider beginning a reflection with the students' artwork on display. Focus the students' attention on the artwork while you play *Ride of the Valkyries*. This is a wonderful way to celebrate their journey. Then, consider the following questions to stimulate reflection and deeper thinking.

- *How did you feel and what were you thinking about while you were listening to Ride of the Valkyries, and looking at your artwork? Explain.*
- *What do you notice about these works of art?*
- *What catches your eye and stands out for you? Why?*
- *What is similar? What is different?*
- *Think about all the experiences you had during this learning journey. What did you like the best and why? What was challenging for you? What are you most proud of? What will you remember the most?*
- *What have you learned about yourself as an artist? Explain.*
- *Give your work of art a title. Share your title with a neighbor and compare ideas.*
- *If Richard Wagner was here what would you like to say to him? What would you ask him?*
- *What would you like to explore next with music and art?*
- *What are you wondering about? What new questions do you have?*

Teachers....A Final Thought: Present your own visual concert!

- Digitally photograph your students' artwork
- Download the images into a PowerPoint program (or another program that allows you to project both images and sound).
- Insert a recording of Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* into the PowerPoint
- Time the images so they can all be viewed by the end of the music
- Present at a special assembly – after attending the WSO's *Adventures in Music* concert!
- Share your musical adventures with your school!!
- Celebrate!!