

ACO MUSIC & ART

Lesson Four: Sounds in the World

Additional Notes for teachers, parents and students

Inspiration can be drawn from almost anything you can imagine. Read below about where the artists and composers from this lesson got their inspiration.

About the Music

Antonio Vivaldi: The Four Seasons, Spring

This orchestral concerto is namely inspired by each of the four weather seasons – Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. The music you heard was “Spring”, which was inspired by a crisp, sunny day with birds chirping near a stream.

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov: Flight of the Bumblebee

This small piece is part of a larger Opera written by the composer, and is a piece of incidental music. It was written with the erratic and chaotic flying patterns of a bumblebee in mind.

Leroy Anderson: The Typewriter

Anderson was inspired by the three sounds a typewriter makes: the sound of typing, the “ring” of the carriage return (the bell sound you hear), and the carriage itself returning. It is a well-known comedy piece.

About the Art

Francisco Goya: The Snowstorm

As with Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons”, “The Snowstorm” was inspired by the artist wishing to portray the harshness of a snowstorm, rather than the simple pleasures usually associated with snow and winter.

Tadashi Nakayama: Neighing Horses

Japanese artist Tadashi Nakayama was inspired by the regal, bold nature of horses. Nakayama was known for creating his paintings using woodblocks.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Yerres, Rain

Gustave Caillebotte drew his inspiration from weather also, in this case rain. This painting depicts an incredibly detailed scene of raindrops on the water.