

Picture the Music

Inspire Creativity!

SLSO education
programs are
presented by



World Wide Technology

An education program for
grades K-6 presented by
the **St. Louis Symphony
Volunteer Association**



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

Stéphane Denève : Music Director

Teacher Guide 2024



A special invitation for teachers of student artists

Showcase your students' imagination and creativity with *Picture the Music*, now in its 34th year of celebrating artwork from public, private, parochial and homeschools throughout the region. This year, this FREE cross-curricular art competition invites students in grades K-6 to discover “**The Dance of the Butterfly**” from **Albert Roussel’s *The Spider’s Feast*** and respond with paintings and drawings that express creative thought and emotion inspired by the music.

We are proud to partner with the Missouri Botanical Garden, Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, and Saint Louis Art Museum to bring Picture the Music 2024 to you and your students. Art, music, and nature offer powerful coping strategies for emotional regulation.

- Engaging in art is cathartic when individuals express their feelings, thoughts, and experiences.
- Listening to music connects us with and validates our own emotions.
- Immersing ourselves in nature promotes relaxation, reduces stress, and restores emotional well-being.

Picture the Music gives your students a learning activity that goes beyond the curriculum and gifts them with new ways to understand and process their own emotions.

Below are some resources to make your students' Picture the Music experience the most memorable ever!

How it Works

Students listen, create, and share—teachers encourage creativity and imagination then choose seven (7) pieces of art to submit.

Listen: Using good quality audio equipment have students listen to “The Dance of the Butterfly” from Albert Roussel’s *The Spider’s Feast*. DO NOT tell students the title of the musical selection. Give them a chance to react to the music, not the title. Allow enough time for students to listen more than once to explore the emotions and thoughts that form in their minds. The musical selection is just over four minutes long, and students will become more familiar and comfortable with it through repeated listening. Some schools have found success when their students listen in music class and then create their artwork in art class.

Create: Encourage students to share whatever thoughts come to their minds while listening. What feelings, images, and memories does the music evoke? Here are some questions for discussion provided by the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Discussion Questions

- Close your eyes as you listen. What colors, shapes, or images come to mind?
- What words would you use to describe the music?
- What does the music feel like? What emotions does the music inspire?
- What do you imagine is happening? What story is the music telling?
- If you were to dance to this music, how would you move? If you are comfortable, move to the music in place or in a safe spot.

After the discussion, students may begin creating their own works of art inspired by the musical selection.

Share: Teachers choose and submit up to seven (7) students' artwork per school, preferably one from each grade K-6. Each homeschool network may enter one (1) piece of art per student up to seven (7) students.

Where to Find the Music

1. YouTube:
[Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Stéphane Denève, conductor](#) (8:44-11:57)
2. [Spotify](#) (starts at 0:56)

Encourage your students to share the music with their families! Your SLSO is performing Roussel’s *The Spider’s Feast* live October 22 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL and January 27 and 28 at Stifel Theatre. For more information visit [slso.org](#).

Artwork Requirements

Each artwork entry must fulfill these requirements:

- Artwork must be created on **12” x 18”** paper.
- Acceptable media include crayon, oil pastels, pen, ink, paints, batik, or mixed media collage. If using collage, use only firmly glued, flat materials.
- The art must be as flat as possible. Please minimize the use of embellishments such as gemstones, beads, etc. that would add weight to the artwork.
- Student’s names should NOT appear on the front of the artwork. Names should ONLY appear as part of the online submission forms (names on the back of artwork are okay).



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Please consider the following when creating artwork:

- Mounting is not required for entry into the competition. If you choose to mount artwork, do not use white glue as it will warp the paper.
- Do not mount on foam core or cardboard.
- Do not use soft pastels or powdered chalk because they may smear and ruin the artwork.
- Consider that the artwork will be viewed from a distance as you choose your media.
- Do not mat your artwork.

Photographing Artwork for Submission

Digital photographs of the artwork will be uploaded via an online submission platform. Please take extra care when photographing student artwork.

- Take the photograph in a well-lit room.
- Avoid photographing the art from above.
- Place the artwork on an easel or something similar.
- Put a solid background behind the art (preferably white).
- Determine whether the photograph should be taken in landscape or portrait mode.

How to Submit Entries

Visit siso.org/picture to access the online submission form.

- Complete one Submission Form for each school. On this form, you will be able to submit up to seven (7) student entries. If you are entering artwork for more than one school, complete a separate Submission Form (with up to seven entries) for each school.
- Please double check the spelling of student names and artwork titles and the orientation of the file uploads before hitting submit. Names and artwork will be reproduced exactly as submitted.
- Acceptable image file types are .jpg, .png, .gif, .bmp, .tiff, .webp, .heic, .heif
- Please name each file using the following naming system:
 - › StudentLastName_FirstInitial_Grade (K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6)
- If you are unable to access the online platform, please contact education@siso.org.

All entries must be submitted online by Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

Questions? Email svapicturethemusic@siso.org.

Judging

- A panel of judges—experts in art, music, and education—will judge the artwork on originality, creativity, and imagination.
- Artwork must meet all requirements to be entered into the competition.
- Judges select 100 finalists who are invited to an awards ceremony.

Finalist Artwork Submission

Teachers will receive results via email in early February. Instructions for mounting finalists' artwork and a deadline for artwork mailing and/or drop-off later that month will be included in the email. Physical artwork from all 100 finalists must be postmarked by Wednesday, February 14 or dropped off the week of Monday, February 19.

Awards Ceremony

The 100 finalists will be honored at an awards ceremony. Information about this event will be published at a later date. The following awards will be presented:

Maestro Award (2 winners)

Awarded to one student artist from grades K-3 and one student artist from grades 4-6 whose works were identified as best capturing the essence of the music and spirit of Picture the Music.

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Award (7 winners)

Awarded to one student artist from each grade whose works were identified as best capturing the essence of the music.

Blue Ribbon Award (25 winners)

Awarded to 25 student artists for works of excellence.

Special Recognition Honorees (66 winners)

Awarded to 66 student artists for outstanding work.

Each finalist receives a certificate and has their artwork on display in the Picture the Music traveling art exhibit. The traveling exhibit showcases students' artwork at several public locations throughout St. Louis following the awards ceremony.

Every student whose artwork is submitted to Picture the Music will receive a Certificate of Merit. Certificates for finalists will be handed out at the awards ceremony; certificates for all other entries will be emailed to teachers directly.



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Artwork Pickup

For the 100 finalists, physical artwork pickup will be arranged after the completion of the traveling exhibit. Teachers with finalists will be emailed directly with information on artwork pickup in spring 2024.

Dates to Remember

- Artwork submission deadline: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
- Emails to top 100 finalists sent: Early February 2024
- Finalist artwork postmark: Wednesday, February 14, 2024
- Finalist artwork drop-off: February 19-23, 2024
- Awards ceremony: TBD
- Traveling Exhibit: April and May 2024
- Finalist artwork pickup: May 2024

Partner Resources

Invite your students to experience nature while they listen to Roussel's music or while they create their artwork. Look out the window while you listen or go outside to draw!

Learn more about nature in your own neighborhoods with these great resources from the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House and the Saint Louis Art Museum.

[Project Pollinator](#): Discover the diversity of pollinators and learn how you can grow a pollinator garden in your community.

[Butterfly Gardening](#): Plant your very own butterfly garden.

[Nectar Plants for Butterflies](#): Learn which plants are especially attractive to butterflies.

[Butterflies and Their Hosts](#): Identify your favorite butterflies and their favorite plants.

[Pollinators in Your Garden](#): Explore some of the local bee species you may find in your own backyard.

[Art and Nature](#): Learn about pieces from the Saint Louis Art Museum's collection that depict nature.

Encourage your students to visit the [Saint Louis Art Museum](#), [Missouri Botanical Garden](#), and the [Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House](#) and the [St. Louis Symphony Orchestra](#) with their families!

About the Composer and Composition

Note: Discuss the composer's life, culture, and world events that happened during their lifetime **ONLY AFTER** students have completed their artwork to ensure that the students' work reflects their own personal and individual emotions and thoughts about the musical selection.

Albert Roussel (1869-1937) was born in Tourcoing, France. Having unfortunately lost his parents and grandparents at a young age, Roussel was raised by his aunt. He showed a natural talent for music during his youth but did not initially pursue it. He excelled in mathematics and writing. At the age of 18 Roussel joined the French Navy, but music never quite left his life. He composed his first piece of music while out at sea. It was likely intended for a fellow sailor that played the violin. At the age of 25, Roussel began to study music seriously. Later that year, with his teacher's encouragement, Roussel resigned from the Navy to pursue a musical career. It shows that it's never too late to begin playing music!

The Spider's Feast premiered at the Theater of the Arts in Paris in 1913. It was originally written as a 30-minute ballet. The ballet dancers dress as different species of insects in a garden. The ballet portrays the life cycles of the many creatures in the garden. Ants, dung beetles, and worms go about their lives looking for food. When all the different insects are onstage, their dances create a grand spectacle. The part of the piece you listened to is the "Dance of the Butterfly," where a butterfly enters the garden and flies about. It is later captured by the spider from the piece's title. By the end of the ballet, two praying mantises defeat the spider!

State Standards for Visual Art and Music

Picture the Music fulfills many components of the Missouri Learning Standards in music and visual arts, as well as the Illinois Fine Arts Learning Standards, including the following:

[Missouri Learning Standards](#)

Visual Art Grade-Level Expectations: VA:Cr1A, VA:Cr1B, VA:Cn10A

Music Grade-Level Expectations: MU:Re7A, MU:Cn10A, MU:Cn11A

[Illinois Fine Arts Learning Standards](#)

Visual Arts: VA:Cr1.1.K-6, VA:Cr2.1.K-6, VA:Cn10.1.K-6

Music: MU:Re8.1.K-6, MU:Cn10.1.K-6, MU:Cn11.1.K-6