

Lesson – *Musical Illustrations*

Companion Videos – Violin Concerto No.4, Movement I; Esme Arias-Kim Interview

Suggested Grade Level

Grades 6-12

Background

Violinist and Sphinx Competition Winner, Esme Arias-Kim creates drawings as an aid to learning and working her way through new pieces of music. Her sketches illustrate the ideas and images that come to mind as she plays through and listens to the music. The process allows her to conceptualize the piece and makes it fun to learn.

Objective

Students will view the BPO video recording of Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4, Mvt. I featuring Esme Arias-Kim and explore the personal images, feelings, and thoughts that come to mind as they listen to the music. They will translate their thoughts and emotions into a visual representation of the piece of music through a drawing or painting. Their artwork will act as a visual roadmap of what the music sounds like to them.

Suggested Materials

- BPO video of Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4, Mvt. I featuring Esme Arias-Kim, 2020 Sphinx Competition Winner
- Esme Arias-Kim biography (provided)
- Esme Arias-Kim Interview video

New York State Arts Standards

MU:Re7.1.E.5 MU:Re7.1.E.8 MU:Re7.1.E.HSI
MU:Re7.2.E.5 MU:Re7.2.E.8 MU:Re7.2.E.HSI
MU:Re8.1.E.5 MU:Re8.1.E.8 MU:Re8.1.E.HSI
MU:Cn10.1.6c MU:Cn10.1.7c MU:Cn10.1.E.8

New York State Visual Arts Standards

VA:Cr2.1.6a-8a VA:Cr2.1.HSI
VA:Cr2.3.6a-8a VA:Re7.1.HSI
VA:Re7.1.6a-8a VA:Re7.2.HSI
VA:Re7.2.6a-8a

New York State English Language Arts & Literacy Standards

Speaking & Listening, Standard 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6

Language, Standard 1, 2 & 6

Procedure

What images and feelings come to mind when listening to music? Do you see different colors or shapes? Music can remind us of past events in our life or bring out certain emotions. Perhaps you can even associate a particular smell or taste when hearing a piece of music.

- 1) Have students read through Esme Arias-Kim’s biography and watch the video of her interview with BPO Assistant Conductor, Jaman Dunn.
- 2) Have students watch the BPO video of Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4, Mvt. I featuring Esme Arias-Kim. As they listen through the music, have them focus on how the music makes them feel. What images come to mind? Does the music bring back memories or remind them of anything? Encourage students to jot down words that describe how they feel/what they’re thinking as they listen.
- 3) Have students listen to the music a second time and sketch any images, colors, or sights that come to mind. Encourage them to think beyond how the music sounds. What would the music look like?
- 4) Have students compile their thoughts, emotions, and sketches into a comprehensive drawing or painting. Have them share their artwork with the class and explain their visual representation of their selected piece of music.





Esme Arias-Kim

2020 Sphinx Competition Junior Division winner

Esme performed the Mozart Violin Concert No. 4, Movement I with the BPO March 24, 2021

Esme Arias-Kim is a 14-year-old Merit Scholarship Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy, a training center for advanced pre-college students where she studies violin. She made her solo orchestral debut at the age of 10 with Oistrakh Symphony and was featured on Chicago's classical radio station WFMT's "Introductions." Her solo performances have taken her across the United States and throughout Germany and Portugal. In summer 2018, Esme competed in Il Piccolo Violino Magico International Competition in Italy as the only American of 16 finalists. She is a first place winner in numerous competitions and most recently received Grand Prize in the junior division of the 23rd Annual Sphinx Competition (2020). She will also participate as one of four finalists in The Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition for a chance to solo with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Esme plays violin in the performing group, Trio Primavera, along with her friends who play piano and cello. The group represents cultural diversity in music, blending Korean, Chilean, Colombian, and Russian styles. Outside of playing the violin, Esme enjoys drawing, performing magic, playing piano, running, Star Wars and spending time with her sister, Claire.

Esme creates drawings as an aid to learning and working her way through new pieces of music.

