

# German Music from Beethoven to Polka



## Overview

Students will be able to listen to examples of Beethoven's music and current German Polka music and develop an understanding of the style characteristics of each style of music. By comparing and contrasting style characteristics students will perform a gallery walk and paint or draw on paper what they feel as they listen to the music. "When I hear this, I feel this..." Students will also be introduced to the style of Expressionism in art.

## Education Standards

TEKS 5.1 B

(1) Foundations: music literacy. The student describes and analyzes musical sound.  
The student is expected to:

(B) distinguish among a variety of musical timbres, including those of woodwind, brass, string, percussion, keyboard, electronic instruments and instruments of various cultures:

TEKS 5.5C

(5) Historical and cultural relevance. The student examines music in relation to history and cultures. The student is expected to:

© identify and describe music from diverse genres, styles, periods and cultures.

Art TEK (3) Historical and cultural relevance. The student demonstrates an understanding of art history and culture by analyzing artistic styles, historical periods, and a variety of diverse cultures.

## Materials Needed

**Ludwig Van Beethoven Powerpoint with includes:**

Recordings of Beethoven's 5th Symphony

Beethoven's--Moonlight Sonata for piano

German polka music: youtube link below

Drawing paper or construction paper

Paints, markers or colored pencils

Paint brushes if painting

## Vocabulary

Romanticism in 19th Century European German music

Polka

Expressionism in art

Accordion



## Student Objectives

\*Students will be able to describe style characteristics of German Romantic music  
By Beethoven.

\*Students will be able to describe style characteristics of modern German polka music.

\* Students will be able to create a drawing or painting while listening to German music in the style of expressionism in art.

\*Students will be able to define style characteristics of expressionistic art.

## Activity

### Creating a Musical Masterpiece

1. Give each student a long sheet of butcher paper or pieces of construction paper at each desk or table.
2. First the teacher will introduce the vocabulary for the lesson to make sure that students have an understanding of Expressionism and Romanticism. Be sure to focus on examples of the art work, so students will have an understanding of what it entails.
3. The teacher will show the powerpoint of Beethoven to give historical background of the composer. The last 2 slides will include his most famous pieces. The student will listen to the music. (one minute of each piece) As the music starts, the students will begin draw what he/she is feeling.
4. When you hear the music stop, go to a different desk or table and continue drawing. Do your best work.
5. **If time or space is limited, students may stay at their assigned seating and just continue drawing on the same paper.**
6. Students will keep changing desks. When the music stops, the teacher will ask the students to stop.
7. Choose 3-4 colored markers, pencils or paint to color and move. Be sure to color nicely.

8. Be sure and change up the music examples from Beethoven to polka, and back and forth.
9. Create a title for your art creation.
10. Think, Pair, Share: Students will share why they chose that title and will explain their artwork by sharing how they felt.

## Extension

Compare and contrast German music of their style (their culture) - ex. Tejano music

Creative writing with the art work they created.

## Optional Music Example

This music can be played throughout the lessons during student work time.

[German Classical Music](#)

[German Polka Music](#)

