

Title of Session: Music Across the Curriculum - Visual Art

Moderator: Leo LaBarge

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LeoL: On with the (ahem) show

DavidWe hits a drum roll

LeoL: Introductions I guess?

LeoL: "crash!"

BJB2: sounds good

LeoL: I'm Leo LaBarge, a drummer and teacher from northern NJ

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a HelpDesk volunteer and I lead a math education and technology discussion. I'm in northern New Jersey, near New York City

FredK: I am a literacy tutor in SE Oklahoma

LoraAB joined the room.

BJB2: Welcome to today's Music Through the Curriculum. The topic is Visual Arts

BJB2: I'm a communications teacher in Pennsylvania

JoseT joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Jose

BJB2: welcome, Jose. Here for Music across the curriculum?

LeoL: so right to the scholastic sounding stuff...

JoseT: hello

LeoL: Hi Jose

JoseT: yes I am

JoseT: hello everyone

LeoL: We can take a look at the “raw materials” of music and visual art. The ideas and conceptions seem to be similar or possibly identical. The tools and techniques of course are different.

LeoL: We could do a side by side, A/B comparison of the elements through a historical lens.

LeoL: or we could look at the forms and structures independently

BJB2: you're the maestro, Leo!

LeoL: if there is anyone with a particular interest?

LeoL: Ok so the historical survey

LeoL: (appeals to my need for organization)

BJB2 smiles

LeoL: <http://www.sanford-artedventures.com/study/study.html>

LeoL: a fairly child oriented site.. looks helpful

SherylM joined the room.

LeoL: it's about visual art

BJB2: welcome, Sheryl

BJB2: we're looking at <http://www.sanford-artedventures.com/study/study.html>

SusanR: everything you need here for a course of study

LeoL: hi Sheryl

SherylM: thanks

LeoL: yeah Susan it's pretty good

LeoL: any art majors here?

BJB2: back in the day I was

LeoL: ah ha!!

SherylM: just the courses for elem ed

LeoL: well ... I got to thinking about the application of art terms, concepts and principles to music

LeoL: Atmosphere for instance

DavidWe: are they connected - the terms, Leo?

LeoL: actually David, most of them are the same

LeoL: Line

LeoL: visually it's self explanatory

DavidWe . o O (harmony)

LeoL: musically it's melody

BJB2 . o O (texture and pattern)

LeoL: color... don't artists talk of colors being complementary

DavidWe: yes

BJB2 nods

LeoL: color and pattern, color is orchestration

LeoL: pattern is rhythm

LeoL: color is harmony

LeoL: the connections are RIGHT THERE

LeoL: so I have a little story

BJB2 listens

LeoL: back in the day, when I was in elementary school, they would always have us

LeoL: "listen to the music .. and draw what you feel"

LeoL: ahh

LeoL: but while most of the kids were drawing pics

LeoL: of cows, or cities or some such

LeoL: I was trying to notate the music

LeoL: you know .. It goes like this then up.. then down

BJB2 . o O (visual music)

LeoL: so now I think about how different elements were important to different people

LeoL: some people see the change as happening over time

LeoL: like I did

LeoL: some would get a more

LeoL: ... landscape like .. out-of-time image

LeoL: This has got to be connected with us being different type of learners

BJB2 agrees. A realistic drawing is more like a snapshot of part of a musical composition

LoraAB: How about an abstract view of the color of the music

LeoL: Thomas Wilfred and the Color Organ?

LeoL: anyone know about Tom?

DavidWe: no

LoraAB: no

FredK: no

SherylM: No

BJB2 hopes Leo is going to tell us more

LeoL: <http://www.gis.net/~scatt/clavilux/clavilux.html>

LeoL: the guy built these color organs... found some connection between color and sound and would "play along" with music

LeoL: Scriabin also had similar ideas

LeoL: an very accessible example (though not very good)

LeoL: is the color things that come with the Windows Media player

BJB2: coolness. I think I saw an exhibit on this at an art museum in Washington DC

LeoL: http://homepage.mac.com/gralston/THE_Visualizers/Wilfred%20&%20Paik.html

LeoL: nam june paik

LeoL: heck... even Disney... Fantasia

LeoL: with some of these "Music and..." discussions, it was hard to find the connection

LeoL: music and Earth Science

LeoL: this one is SO rich... it was hard for Lora and I to figure out where to start

SherylM: how about that musician that speeds up the earth sounds so humans can here them

LeoL: (Full disclosure. Lora AB and I are colleagues, Lora found most of the links for the document)

LeoL: who's that Sheryl?

LoraAB: music to the explosions of volcanoes and geysers

LeoL: I remember a piece called the earth magnetic field..

LeoL: but I think that was number crunching

LeoL: Murray Schafer has done a lot of things with soundscapes

LeoL: let's look at the connection that teachnology makes between art and music

LoraAB: SETI program uses sound to contact space

LeoL: early humans painted on cave walls with what?/

DavidWe: paint?

LeoL: barely processed organic and mineral stuff?

LoraAB: branches

LeoL: stuff that was one step away from simply found material

DavidWe smiles

LeoL: their instruments were similar

SherylM: kind of like Pollack

LeoL: simple flutes...

LeoL: simple drums...

LeoL: what was the music like?

LoraAB: instruments made from things found in nature

LeoL: since we have no way of knowing really...

LeoL: I figure short melodies with a small compass , or range of notes

LoraAB: Australian Aborigines closest

LeoL: that would match their small palette

SherylM: The archaeologist study the caverns in France believe the people there were using the stalactites and stalagmites as organs or musical instruments to join with voices

LeoL: yeah Lora

LeoL: Australian instruments include the didgeridoo, flutes and found instruments

LeoL: they even play an insect

LoraAB: they play their own bodies by slapping

LeoL: Sheryl yes... you could bow them and they would react like glass harmonic

LeoL: so simple color palette... simple instruments... and probably simple music

FredK . o O (insect?)

LeoL: although there are some great examples of some very complicated music played by people with a small color palette,

LeoL: but a large rhythmic palette

SherylM: they are long plates that make gigantic sounds by tapping or sliding bone or wood along them

LeoL: Thanks Fred I was hoping someone would bite

LeoL: they take a beetle of some kind, one that flaps it's wings really fast, stick one leg on a twig using pitch

LeoL: hold the buzzing bug in front of their mouth

LeoL: and make melodies by changing the shape of their mouth cavity

LoraAB: similar to a jaw harp

LeoL: ... just like a jaw harp

LeoL: straight up true

BJB2 . o O (just don't breathe in real fast!)

FredK . o O (sopranos use mosquitoes?)

SherylM: don't like that picture

LeoL: if we look at the renaissance.. we find a influx of rational thinking.. paralleled in music by early experiments in standard tuning..

LeoL: the timings a little off, but I'll see a connection

LeoL: yeah Fred Sopranos mosquitoes, basses use like ... I dunno crows or something

LeoL: and even if the timing is off, heck even if I'm stone wrong, if I can get a kid to examine music and art in a bunch of different ways, she's bound to learn SOMETHing

LoraAB: big bumble bees have a bass sound

LeoL: we can look at the effects world events had on music and art

SusanR: global warming and music

SusanR: and its effect on art

LoraAB: middle ages art and music was church based

LeoL: as the known world expanded, more colors were introduced, in topics/subjects for paintings

LeoL: how's the global warming connection go Sheryl?

BJB2 was wondering that also

BJB2 . o O (more watercolors?)

SusanR . o O (wonders if there could be a connection)

LoraAB: if you look at oriental art and listen to the music you can see and hear a connection

SherylM: changes in color, asymmetry, and dissonance

LeoL: I could see the effect of population shifts

LeoL: and available materials to indigenous musicians

LeoL: nice!

LeoL: similar to the effects mechanization had on music in the early 20th cent

LoraAB: blend of cultures to make a new music

LeoL: oh oh Sheryl

LeoL: The Futurists!!!

LeoL: Russolo

LeoL: <http://www.unknown.nu/futurism/noises.html>

LeoL: along other lines...

LeoL: we can get the kids to play with visual patterns

LeoL: and compose their own music

LeoL: <http://www.creatingmusic.com/>

LeoL: Creating music

LeoL: a site Lora found that was created by the electronic composer Morton Subotnick

LoraAB: with the computer they can actually see a visual representation of their music

BJB2: how cool!

LeoL: there is one heck of a links page hanging on the arts site page

LeoL: did you go play with the site Bj?

LoraAB: Transform sound into color as they did in Mr. Holland's Opus

SusanR: I am playing, Leo

LeoL: good!!

BJB2 . o O (I'm not quitting my day job!)

LeoL: I don't remember that part Lora

LoraAB: for the deaf school

LeoL: Oh but Bj the learning curve is so steep!!

LeoL: it's very cool

LeoL: hmm... I'll have to look again

LeoL: there's a very good baroque music lesson on the links page

LeoL: but I think the thing to do .. is to model the cross curricular aspects... let the students watch us make outlandish connections, and defend them

LeoL: then they can do the same

LeoL: they are always better at it

LoraAB: They come up with the ideas and questions and we can steer them a little

LoraAB: the results are awesome as Leo and I found out

LeoL: Influence of color

LeoL: Synesthetic colors, described by the composer. Though these works are often considered to be influenced by Scriabin's synesthesia, a condition wherein one experiences sensation in one sense in response to stimulus in another, it is doubted that Alexander Scriabin actually experienced this [1] [2]. His color system, unlike most synesthetic experience, lines up with the circle of fifths: it was a thought-out system based on Sir Isaac Newton's Optics. Indeed, influenced also by his theosophical beliefs, he developed it towards what would have been a pioneering multimedia performance: his

unrealized magnum opus Mysterium was to have been a grand week-long performance including music, scent, dance, and light in the foothills of the Himalayas that was to bring about the dissolution of the world in bliss.

LeoL: ... from wikipedia

DavidWe smiles

LeoL: Stockhausen is also doing the same sort of thing with his current opera LICHT

BJB2: The big hand is almost straight up, Leo and Lora

LeoL: I think a lot of this art/music discussion also plays with the phenomena of synesthesia

DavidWe smiles

SherylM: Excellent, lots of wonderful ideas and websites

LeoL: don't forget to join up Sheryl

FredK: . o O (as usual Leo has taken us on a fascinating trip through the curriculum)

FredK: thanks

LeoL: thank you Fred

DavidWe: Thanks, Leo. Good discussion

BJB2: Thanks, Leo and Lora!

SherylM: Thanks for all your help

LeoL: Thanks for the opportunity Bj

SusanR: Thanks Leo and Lora..always thought provoking and thinking outside the box

LeoL: this was the last one in the series... it's been a great pleasure and honor

DavidWe: Thank you for your efforts, Leo

BJB2: are you on for February, Leo?

LeoL: It's kept me sane

LeoL: I don't have anything for Feb Bj...

SherylM: Great I will sign up

LeoL: but .. what the heck... I'm open

FredK: I'd be back

BJB2 smiles. Cool. Just email me your topic. Feb 12?

LoraAB: pick an easy topic this time

LeoL: You know I can't turn you down Bj

SherylM: I'll catch the reminder for February. Gotta go

LeoL: alright....

LeoL: nice to meet you Sheryl

BJB2 hugs goodnight. Thanks again

LeoL: join the arts sites room