

War and Music Topic

Picture Music Cards

Search on the internet or in books for photographs of the aftermath of the bombing of Hiroshima at the end of World War 2. The composer Penderecki saw pictures of the mass destruction and suffering and composed his piece “Threnody For The Victims Of Hiroshima” in response to what he saw and heard about.

- ★ How do you think the music reflects the images?

- ★ Study the war pictures displayed in the room.
- ★ Compose some music to go with one of the pictures.

Our group has the following people in it _____

We have decided to compose some music about Picture 1 2 3 4 5

Here are our ideas:

- ★ Here are a few thoughts about each picture which may help you get started.

Picture No. 1 – St. Paul’s Survives by Herbert Mason from London in World War 2

When planes were approaching a town or city in Britain during the 2nd World War a siren would be sounded so that the people could take shelter in their air raid shelter. In London, many people sheltered in the underground or in specially made air raid shelters under the ground. Another siren would go off at the end of the air raid to let everyone know it was safe to come out again.

Use this picture to help with the structure of your piece of music: The Warning; The waiting; The Bombing; The “All-Clear”; The Aftermath.

Find the image here: <http://ww2today.com/29th-december-1940-st-pauls-survives-london-firestorm>

Picture No. 2 – Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases, Ministry Of Health Posters, WW2

It was important that Britain’s resources were not wasted during the 2nd World War, so people were encouraged to economize in every way. This poster is suggesting that people use a handkerchief when they sneeze so that they do not become ill and spread illness to other people. If lots of people become ill the resources of the health service would be used up looking after them instead of the soldiers fighting for Britain.

You could compose a cheery song about this – the chorus could begin with the slogan on the poster.

Find the images here: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1499>

Picture No. 3 – Battle Scene from the American Civil War

Create a soundscape to accompany the picture.

Imagine the sounds of war that you would hear if you were actually in this picture. Re-create some of those sounds and use them in your music.

In these days at the end of the 18th century, buglers and drummers were used to give signals and encouragement to the soldiers. Use some bugle or drum calls in your soundscape.

Find some images here: <https://www.learning-history.com/american-civil-war-battle-of-gettysburg/>

Picture No. 4 – Vietnam War Memorial, Washington, USA

In just about every town and city in Britain there is a War Memorial with the names of local soldiers killed in the two world wars and any later wars. This War Memorial in Washington commemorates the thousands of American soldiers killed during the Vietnam War of the 1960s and 1970s. There are many images of this memorial. Find one of the many photographs of this memorial that have a lone soldier paying his respects to his fallen colleagues.

They are pretty sad and emotional images. Compose sad music to accompany this picture.

Maybe the soldier in the photograph was in the Vietnam War and witnessed some of his colleagues being killed. You could use some memories of these fights in your sad music.

Picture No. 5 – Help Britain Finish The Job, Government Poster, WW2

The British Government issued lots of posters during the 2nd World War. This one shows dramatic British aircraft and ships in action and is encouraging the people at home to give the soldiers their support. This could be through encouraging letters, or contributing to the war effort by donating metal to be made into weapons, planes and tanks, or cutting back on luxuries or non-essential goods.

Again you could compose a song about this, or you could try to compose music to accompany the dramatic scene on the poster.

Here's the poster we used for this task: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/38702>