

Music For Special Events

The Art Exhibition

Brief

You have been asked to write music for a room in an art exhibition. In the room there are four paintings (see next page). Each painting has a speaker above it playing music to accompany it. Visitors move from one painting to the next spending about 30 seconds at each.

Write 4 x 30 second clips of music to accompany the paintings

Picture 1 : Lichtenstein – BLAM

This is a dramatic picture showing a jet being hit by a missile. Don't just try to have sound effects of an explosion – this will be boring.

- The pilot would have been anxious as the missile approaches.
- Try to build up tension as the missile approaches
- Think about ostinato parts to build tension
- Chromatic notes might help here
- A slowly rising melody (using chromatic notes) could be useful
- Think about what might have happened just before the missile hit.

Picture 2 : Mondrian – Broadway Boogie Woogie

This picture uses straight lines representing the streets of New York. It is very ordered, there is no chaos here. The lines are very straight. Imagine you are following one of these lines. You can turn at any point maybe slowing down at certain times. There is nothing dramatic in this picture, so your music should reflect this.

- Think about sustained notes to represent the lines on the picture. You can represent two parallel lines with two different pitches for example.
- You can turn sharply left or right
- The blocks might represent buildings as you pass them quickly. What could these buildings be (firestations, schools etc.), and how might you reflect them in the music?

Picture 3 : Munch – The Scream

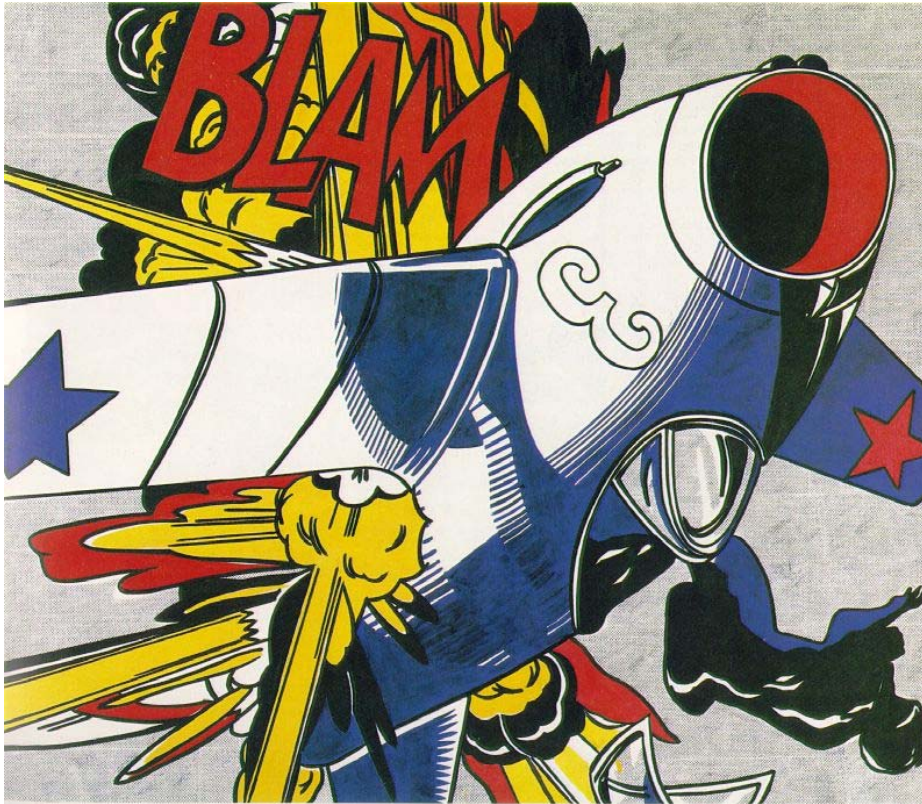
This is another dramatic picture, but unlike the first one, there is no build up of tension. The picture is confused and quite scary. What could the person be screaming about?

- Use extremes of pitch in this to create a dramatic and tense feel
- Repeated chromatic chords would work well
- Ostinato passages maybe being passed around from one part to another would work

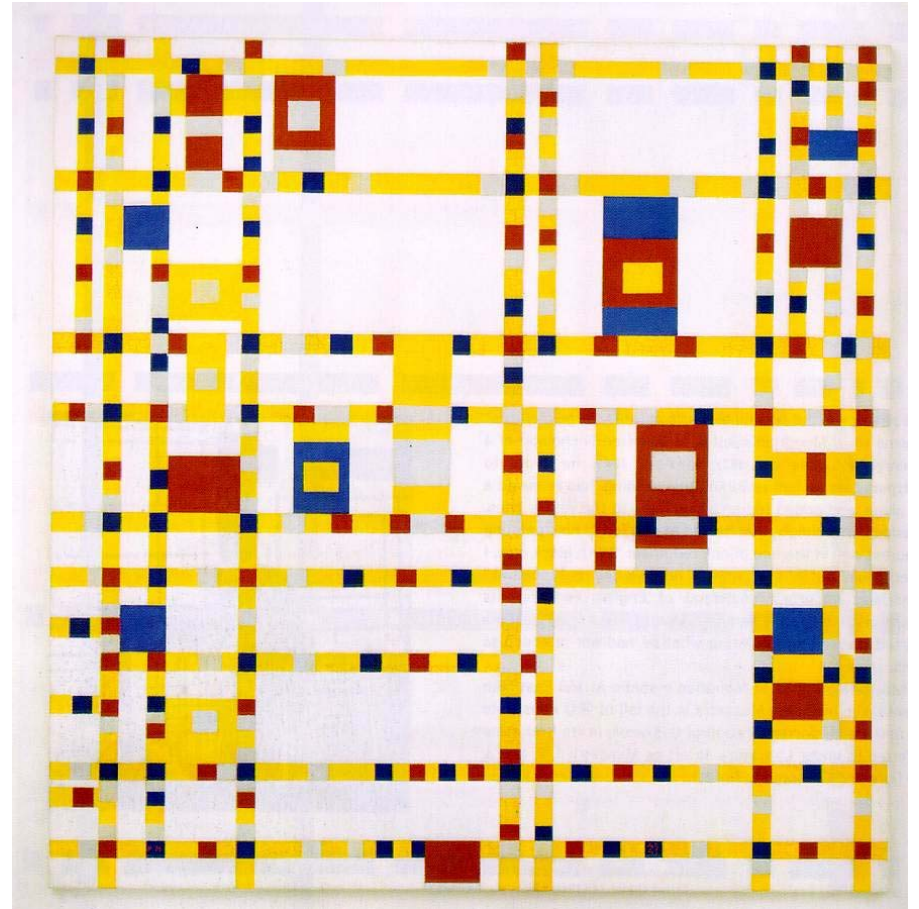
Picture 4 : Monet – The Houses of Parliament

Monet was an impressionist painter. Most of his paintings appear through a haze and are very calm. Your music should be relaxed and calm. You can do this by using these ideas :

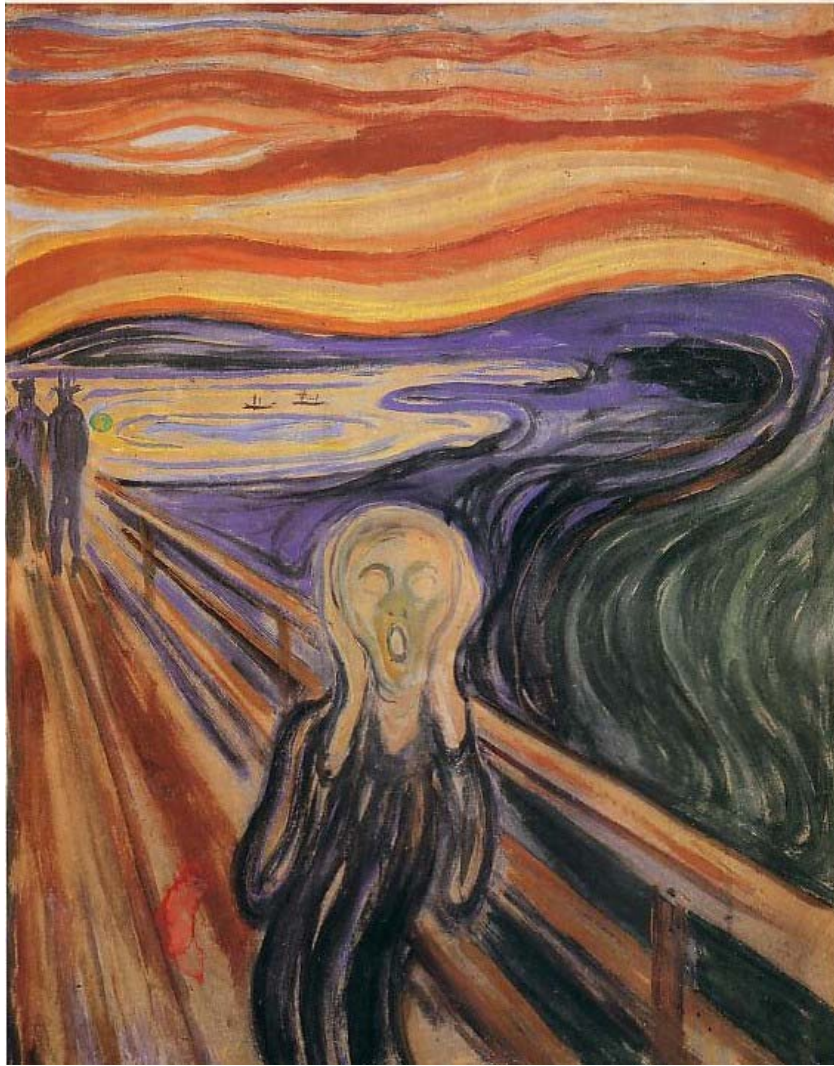
- Chords (especially parallel 7th chords)
- Sustained notes moving very slowly
- Occasional high pitched notes representing sunlight might work well
- Big Ben is there... it has a bell!



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4

