

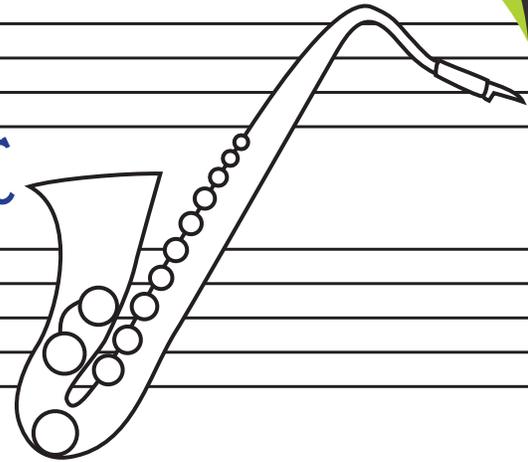
# Music to Your Ears



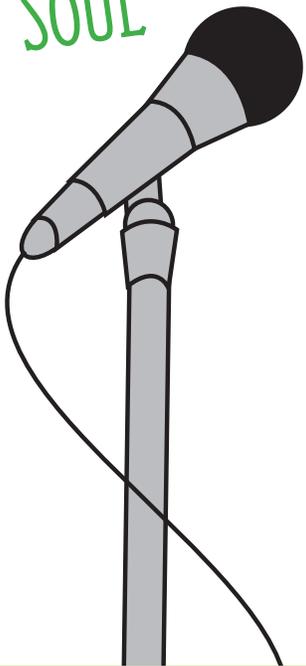
MOTOWN



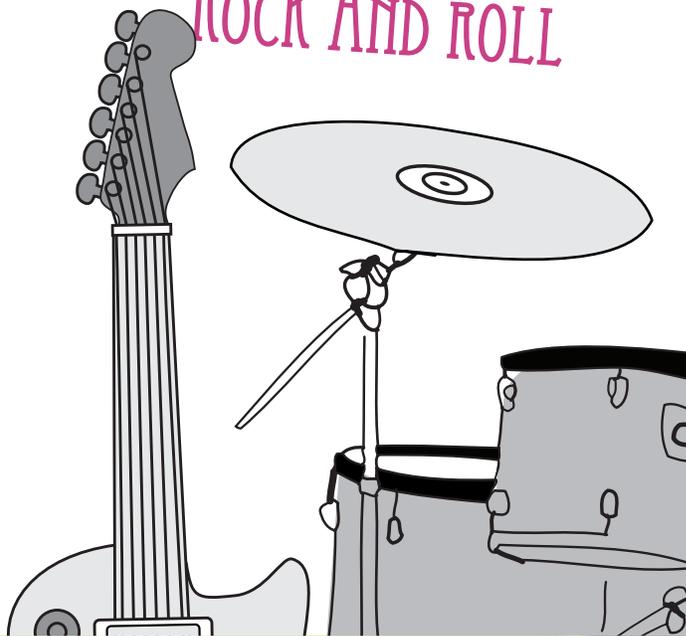
JAZZ MUSIC



SOUL



ROCK AND ROLL



HIP-HOP



PLATINUM

# Task 1: The Blues

Bessie Smith,  
legendary blues singer



Blues music has its roots in tribal African music. Though they were forbidden to practice traditional ways, African slaves held onto their rhythms and melodies through song. As in their homeland, African-American slaves sang rhythmic songs as they planted and harvested crops. They also created spirituals, a form of religious song, out of traditional melodies combined with Biblical themes. These songs expressed religious faith while also expressing the terrible hardships of slavery. After Emancipation, the distinct rhythms and melodies carried over into free African-American culture, finally evolving into blues music. Still played today, blues are the root of many other forms of modern music, including rock and roll and jazz.

## Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. The African-American spiritual came about when traditional African religion and music mixed with African-Americans' new \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs. ANHRISCIT
2. Blues music originated in a region of the United States called the \_\_\_\_\_ EPED HOSTU
3. Many traditional and contemporary blues songs tell the story of an individual character. This type of song is known as a \_\_\_\_\_. ADALBL

Do you have a favorite rock and roll, blues or jazz song? What makes it special?

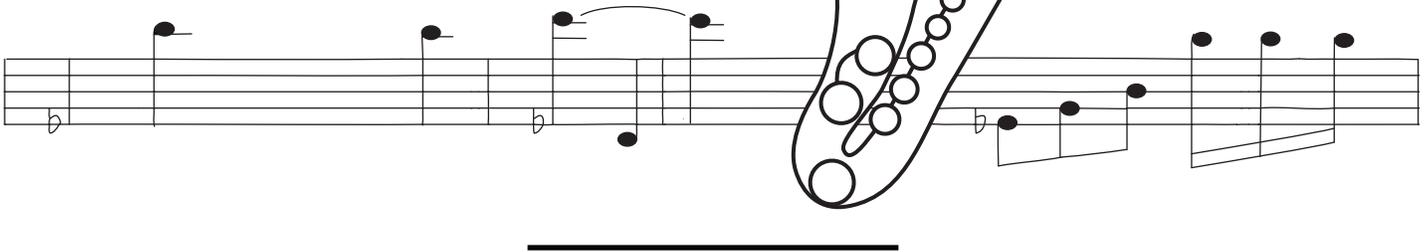
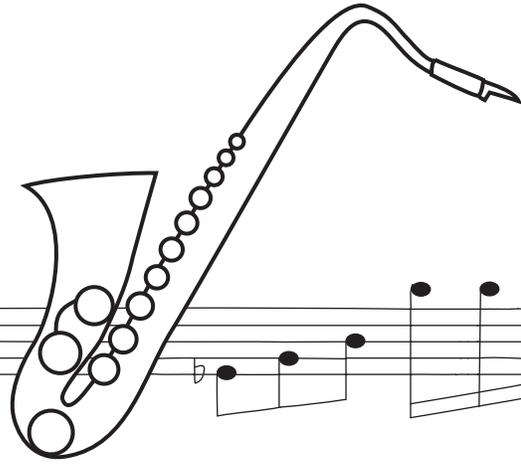
Answers:

1. CHRISTIAN

2. DEEP SOUTH

3. BALLAD

# Task 2: JAZZ MUSIC



**Jazz** is often considered America’s first musical invention. The music grew out of African-American communities in the South in the late 1800s and the early 1900s after slavery was abolished and many freed slaves set out to look for work. Due to strict segregation laws in the South, they had trouble finding it in traditional places of employment, but most of those laws didn’t apply to entertainment gigs. African-Americans began to be hired to perform music in vaudeville and variety shows, where an upbeat music called ragtime became popular. In New Orleans, this music was transformed into jazz. Since New Orleans is a port city, people from all over the world came by boat every day, and began bringing musical traditions from their home countries into New Orleans’ nightclubs and entertainment venues. These forms of music blended together to become a lively blend known as jazz.

“The Jazz Age” came about in the 1920s. The United States was changing – women had been given the right to vote, and Prohibition was passed. Wild jazz music became the perfect background music to the turbulent times. Young people of all backgrounds began to take an interest in the music, and the African-American musicians that wrote and played it became respected and popular performers. From there many branches of jazz evolved, and seeped into other styles of pop music. Composer George Gershwin caused an uproar in the 1920s when he combined strong elements of jazz music with classical music in his work *Rhapsody in Blue*, now a very famous piece of American concert music. Many songwriters followed suit, and jazz’s influence reached almost every form of popular music after it. Its free-form style can be heard in almost every form of American pop music today.

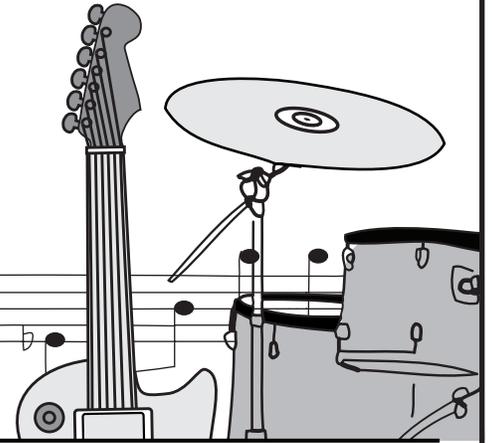
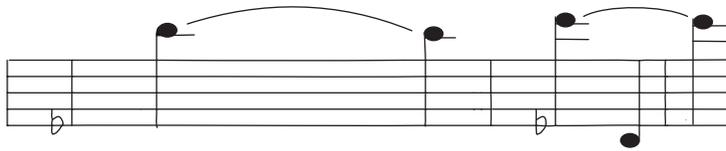
## WORD SCRAMBLE!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

- The word “jazz” may have come from a slang word, *jasm*, which meant “ \_\_\_\_\_ , energy, and vigor.” RIPITS
- \_\_\_\_\_ music is considered to be one of the roots of jazz. ESLUB
- African-American musicians playing in \_\_\_\_\_ shows helped spread jazz music throughout the northern and western United States. LEAUDEVLVI



# Task 3: ROCK AND ROLL



**Rock and roll** began in the American south; a combination of the many styles of music that existed in the country at the time. Up until the late 1940s, different cultures in America had created their own styles of music, including blues, jazz, folk, country and swing. Around that time, musicians began to combine the different styles of music, and soon they came together to resemble what we now consider rock and roll. The earliest rock songs are mainly influenced by country and blues.

With more and more families enjoying new prosperity after World War II, their teenage children had free time and money to spend. They began attending local dances and concerts where they heard this new style of music played, and soon began spending their money on records. Disc jockeys began to notice the popularity of the music and began playing it on their radio stations, pushing it into the mainstream.

Many of the most popular rock and roll hits were blues songs that had been written by African-American songwriters, but were re-recorded by white artists. However, many African-Americans broke through into the mainstream, including legendary names like Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, Bo Diddley and Little Richard. The popularity of rock and roll was an important step toward integration, as people of all races came together to both make and enjoy the music.

## WORD SCRAMBLE!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

- The appeal of rock and roll across racial lines reflected, and contributed to, the \_\_\_\_\_ Movement. ILIVC GSRIHT
- Rock and roll was made up of two types of music. Rockabilly, influenced by country music, was popularized by white musicians like \_\_\_\_\_ . Rock, built on the beats of rhythm & blues, was the type made mostly by African-American musicians like Little Richard. VSELI EEYSPRL
- Some of those first rock and roll hits by white musicians were \_\_\_\_\_ or rewrites of earlier black rhythm-and-blues or blues songs. RSOVCE



# Task 4:



Music is a complex and multi-sensory form of literature. Sometimes just hearing a song can conjure a powerful memory or emotion. Think carefully about your favorite songs and **why** you love them. Then use the prompts to create a mixed tape of your top 10 best hits.

*Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.*

-Ludwig Van Beethoven

**Best song to wake up to:**

Why?

**Best cruising-in-the-car song:**

Why?

**Best song to vent when you're angry:**

Why?

**Saddest song:**

Why?

**Favorite 80s song:**

Why?

**Best song to dance to:**

Why?

**Song that represents you best:**

Why?

**Song that represents a cherished memory:**

Why?

**Best song to fall asleep to:**

Why?

**Favorite 90s song:**

Why?

# Task 5:

# Library of Congress Jukebox Activity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.loc.gov/jukebox>

Popular music has come a long way since the 1700s and 1800s. Although you may not listen to it often, classical music has a lot of ties to the music we listen to today. Take a musical journey back in time with an online Jukebox full of classics, care of the Library of Congress.

Visit <http://www.loc.gov/jukebox> and use the search tool to find George Gershwin – Rhapsody in Blue (parts 1 and 2)

## Response Questions:

What is the first image that conjures when you hear this song?

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What emotions do you feel when you hear this song?

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Write one paragraph that describes this song as if it were a children's story or fable.

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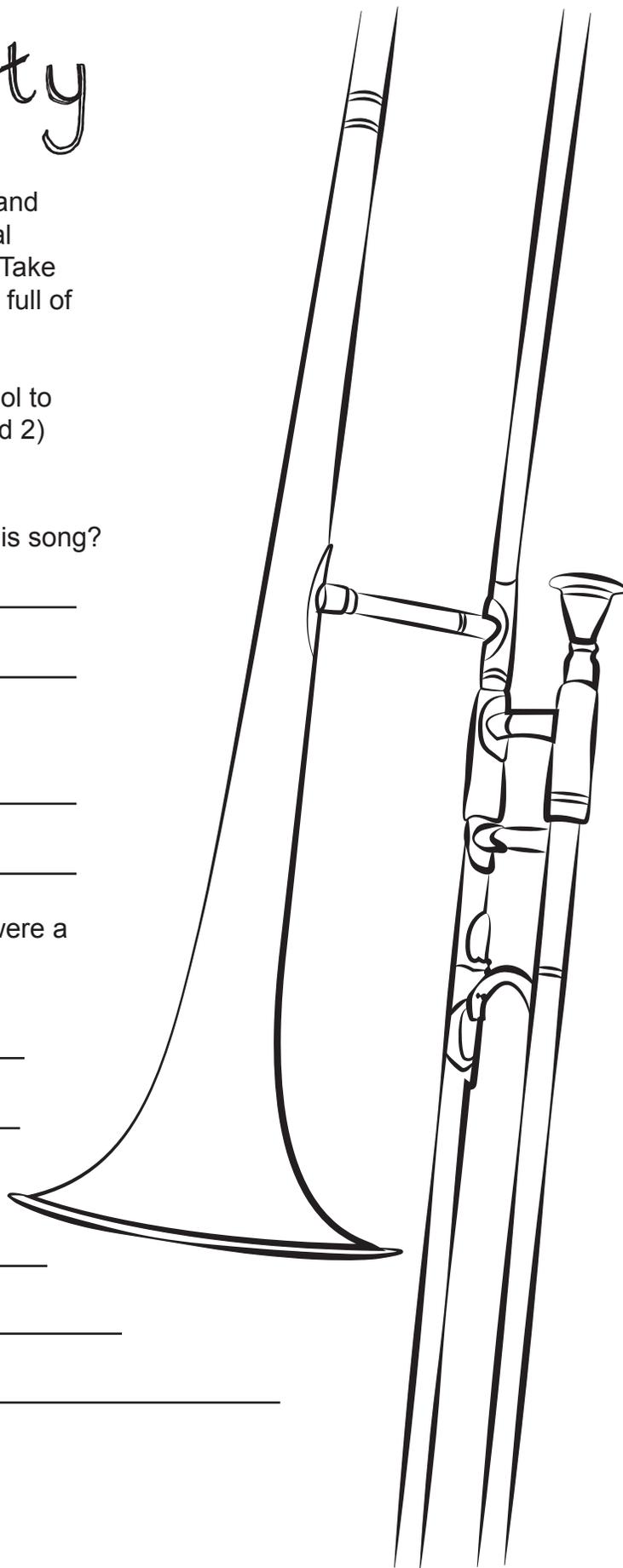
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# Task 6:

# Library of Congress Jukebox Activity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.loc.gov/jukebox>

Popular music has come a long way since the 1700s and 1800s. Although you may not listen to it often, classical music has a lot of ties to the music we listen to today. Take a musical journey back in time with an online Jukebox full of classics, care of the Library of Congress.

Visit <http://www.loc.gov/jukebox> and use the search tool to find Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Marriage of Figaro (overture)

## Response Questions:

What is the first image that conjures when you hear this song?

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What emotions do you feel when you hear this song?

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Write one paragraph that describes this song as if it were a scene in a movie.

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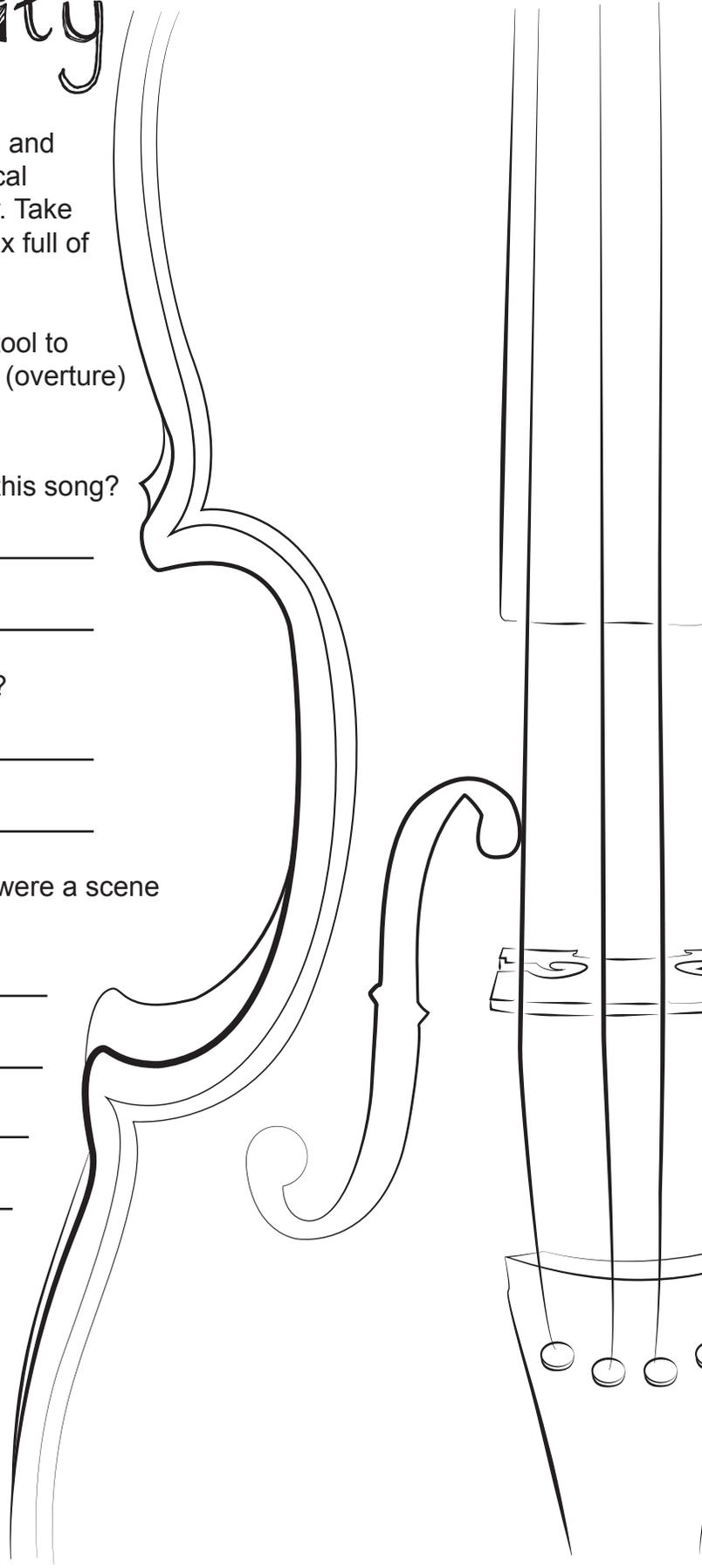
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# Jukebox Activity

<http://www.loc.gov/jukebox>

Popular music has come a long way since the 1700s and 1800s. Although you may not listen to it often, classical music has a lot of ties to the music we listen to today. Take a musical journey back in time with an online Jukebox full of classics, care of the Library of Congress.

Visit <http://www.loc.gov/jukebox> and use the search tool to find Frederic Chopin (pronunciation: show-PAN) – Berceuse

## Response Questions:

What is the first image that conjures when you hear this song?

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What emotions do you feel when you hear this song?

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Write one paragraph that describes this song as if it were the soundtrack to a silent film. What would be happening in this film?

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# Task 8: Library of Congress

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Jukebox Activity

<http://www.loc.gov/jukebox>

Popular music has come a long way since the 1700s and 1800s. Although you may not listen to it often, classical music has a lot of ties to the music we listen to today. Take a musical journey back in time with an online Jukebox full of classics, care of the Library of Congress.

Visit <http://www.loc.gov/jukebox> and use the search tool to find Felix Arndt – Desecration Rag (a classic nightmare)

### Response Questions:

What is the first image that conjures when you hear this song?

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What emotions do you feel when you hear this song?

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Write one paragraph that describes this song as if it were a scary story.

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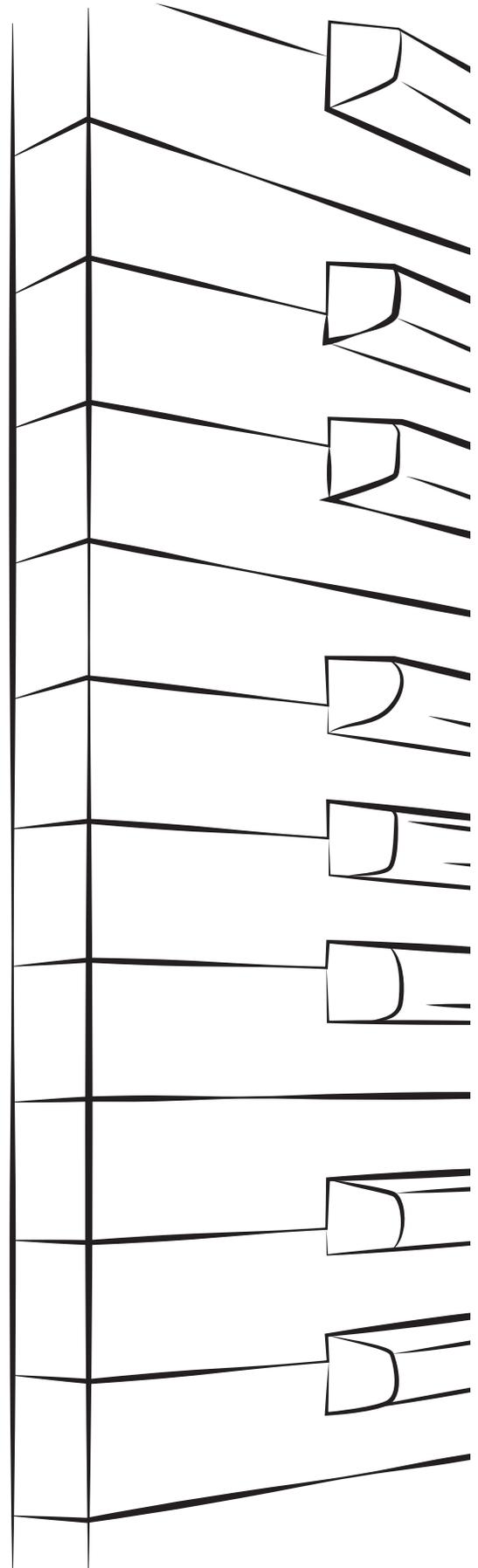
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Task 9:

# Jukebox Activity

<http://www.loc.gov/jukebox>

Popular music has come a long way since the 1700s and 1800s. Although you may not listen to it often, classical music has a lot of ties to the music we listen to today. Take a musical journey back in time with an online Jukebox full of classics, care of the Library of Congress.

Visit <http://www.loc.gov/jukebox> and use the search tool to find John Philip Sousa – Stars & Stripes Forever March

## Response Questions:

What is the first image that conjures when you hear this song?

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What emotions do you feel when you hear this song?

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Write one paragraph that describes this song as if it were a person. Hint: Try closing your eyes while you listen. If you are still stumped, try to imagine the song as someone's "theme song", and then describe that someone!

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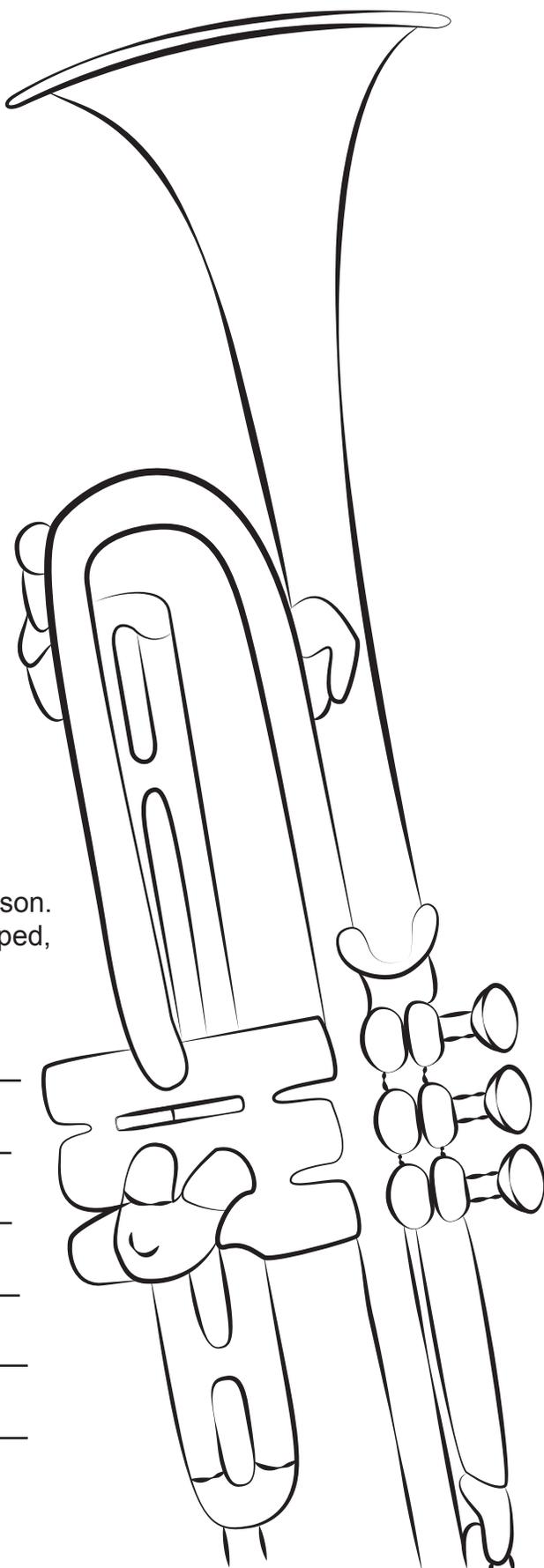
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# Comprehension:

1. In your own words, how does a piano's sound work?

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2. What did the "double escapement" mechanism do?

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3. Name three improvements that make the modern piano what it is today.

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