



Art & Music 2021

Second Chances, Second Glances

Introductory Questions (Xavier, Elise, Jutin)

- **Quick! Draw a sketch of your teammate. Would you call it an original work of art?**
 - If you define “original” as not derived from another pre-existing piece and “art” as a visual recreation of the world as a drawing, painting, sculpture, or other mediums, then yes, it can be considered art. However, the definition of art is practically more complex than that in reality. Some would argue that true art would need more skill, more meaning, and/or more creativity than a simple sketch. Those nuances are what defines one’s response to this question and open up to a whole different debate. I stand by the belief that art is only art when it is not arbitrary. Anyone from all skill levels can create art, just as long as it is done with purpose and intention. Meaning and value need to be imbued into the piece by the artist in order to be considered as art.
- **Now draw a sketch of the Mona Lisa—from memory! Is it an original work?**
 - No, it is not an original work — it’s more like a cover or an interpretation. As the piece is directly derived from an external pre-existing source, it is no longer original. If a singer sang a song by Queen from memory, you wouldn’t say that it’s the singer’s original work.

Although, if you were to turn this sketch of the Mona Lisa or this Queen cover into a transformative work, the situation is a bit more nuanced. Works based on copyrighted works can be protected under copyright law (in most countries, at least) if they alter it enough and/or bring something significantly different to it. Parodies, for example, often offer commentary on the work and thus are considered transformative in most cases. They may not be completely original, but saying they’re copies isn’t accurate either.

- **What if you Googled the Mona Lisa and copied an image of it exactly?**
 - The same reasoning applies. You would have made a copy of someone else’s work, so it technically isn’t yours. It’s not even a rendition because the artist’s personal input and

creativity were not considered when recreating the art piece. It was only a replica that aimed to mimic the original.

- **Think about the oldest piece of art you have ever seen in real life. Was it exactly how the artist had made it?**
 - Even without thinking about the oldest piece of art that I've seen, I can tell you that it would not have been exactly how the artist made it. Over time, artworks are damaged by smoke, dust, grime and just generally being observed. The artworks were, at the time, not made to last centuries and therefore have changed during this period. This can be as small as the paint chipping in a few spots or as large as parts of the canvas tearing or the pigments changing color due to overexposure to UV light. However, the artwork likely has the intent preserved as it originally was, and that's what matters.
- **Have you ever visited reconstructed ruins, such as Machu Picchu, Angkor Wat, or LAX? Would you rather they had been left in their original state?**
 - There is importance in preserving historical and significant buildings as those are timeless pieces that give us an insight into a time that once was. A glimpse of a world that no longer exists but still hold great meaning in the modern-day, if you may. Preserving them helps us make sense of our world today as the past shapes who we are in the present, both as societies and individuals. On the Angkor Wat and other temples in Cambodia, there are many carvings of female Apsara dancers. The dancers are said to have hailed from heaven to entertain the kings and gods and this traditional dance is still heavily revered and practised in Cambodia and other Buddhist and Hindu countries today.
- **Should we restore important works of art and architecture as they begin to decay, or should we let them age naturally?**
 - It depends on the building and context. If the building is a monument depicting and representing a country's culture, there is an argument to be made that preserving them is ideal so that future generations are still able to observe and experience the beautiful past during their time. However, it is also important to consider the integrity and authenticity of the work when restoring it. In some cases, renewing or restoring the piece of work or building is more detrimental to the culture or history it represents. For example, Bokor Palace Hotel on Bokor Mountain, Cambodia. It is an old abandoned hotel the Khmer Rouge used as a hideout for years while they fought Vietnamese troops. The brick walls had bullet holes and graffiti but when it was preserved, they cast everything in concrete, removing all of its context, identity, and significance. This happens with other forms of art as well. Certain contexts of the work need to be considered when renewing them.
- **Old buildings are sometimes adapted for new uses (rather than replaced) because government regulations prevent them from being torn down. If you could adaptively reuse your school, what would it become?**
 - My school is full of many small rooms, spread out between larger buildings, as well as multiple gyms. I believe that we could repurpose the area into a community centre with multiple functions. Gyms could remain, whilst classrooms could be converted into small living spaces for those who have fallen on hard times. Classrooms containing

microwaves (also known as the Food Tech Department) could be converted into soup kitchens, and generally, everything within the school could be repurposed. It could also work as a hospital or a really cheap hotel if you had more capitalistic tendencies.

- **Why do reworkings of a song sometimes find greater success than the original?**

- The main reason why a song may find success when it is remade or performed a second time is generally due to creative interpretation, as well as the musical trends of the time period and the general climate, as music often reflects what is currently going on in the world. In addition to that, songs that were repopularised after booms in technological advancement generally gained more listens due how fast-paced and easily-shared information and culture can be spread worldwide with technology.

- **What old song would you suggest a current artist rerecord?**

- This highly personal question is something that you, kind scholars, should figure out yourselves, based on your own musical preferences and what music you believe the world currently needs. Although, if we had to have a reason to re-record an old song, it would be most likely to have a better quality recorded version with a cleaner sound. Remasters also exist for artists to update their song's mixes.

- **Would you consider a new album from a favorite singer—or a new painting from a favorite artist—to be a continuation of their previous work? What kinds of expectations do an artist's past works set up for their future ones?**

- Some albums or paintings are purposefully made as continuations of previous works. Some are not made as continuations but end up acting as continuations. Often, if artists want to attempt to breakaway from previous works, they take it in a completely new direction. The question is how often do groups succeed in this, and how do you judge whether they're successful?

Judging whether continuations or new directions are successful — and defining what that means — is subjective, and there will always be fans that dislike change and came for a specific brand. A band or artist can get stuck making the same kinds of songs or artworks because it is more reliable to cater to a known audience with clear wants.

Despite this, 'successful' changes could be measured in terms of monetary gains/losses — a work popular with fans and new audiences alike is likely to be monetarily successful.

- **Consider your favorite song. Which artists would you want to have cover it—and which ones would you not want anywhere near it?**

- I don't know about other people but I'd hate the Kidz Bop kids to cover any songs from my favourite artists. I find that music is a great medium to express oneself, find other people who have the same struggles and concerns as you, and even increase awareness on universal issues that don't get as much coverage. It can be so mature and world-shaking and Kidz Bop would only do any song injustice.

For example, AJJ and Crywank are one of my favourite artists. Their songs cover issues

around the struggles of finding happiness and the lyrical complexities of their work would only be soiled by the grubby, greasy, and censoring hands of Kidz Bop writers. Although, I'd love for Crywank to cover AJJ's "Big Bird". The two are both folk bands but AJJ leans more to the punk rock side whereas Crywank is more "antifolk" (TLDR; it's a tad bit more traditional folk but melower and more experimental). AJJ's "Big Bird" is right up Crywank's alley and is still on brand with the artist. I feel that Crywank would be able to add an extra layer of nuance to the song with his voice.

- **Would you want the original artist to write a sequel song?**

- People grow, mature, and learn things over time. Artists and bands rarely remain the same as the years pass — their sound and the topics they cover often change and evolve as they do. A band or artist creating a sequel to one of their older songs would be able to add a more modern twist to it, or improve it now they know more; the possible reasons for creating a sequel song are many.

One of our (Jutin and Elise) favourite bands, AJJ, has even made a sequel to one of their sequel songs. They first released the songs "People" and "People II: The Reckoning" in 2007, the former about the singer's contradictory but ultimately positive and hopeful outlook towards humanity, the latter about how difficult life can be and how people ultimately aren't very significant. Almost exactly four years later they released the song "People II 2: Still Peoplin'", a rather bleak song about the struggles of getting by and being happy, similar to "People II: The Reckoning", but ultimately ends with verses about the importance of empathy and how everyone has their own understanding of what hardship is. The song feels like the middle ground between its predecessors — as if the singer has come to terms with both interpretations of humanity and has realised the truth.

- **For important occasions, would you rather play the music that is new or old?**

- This depends on the context of the event that the music is being played at. For a wedding ceremony, playing pop music whilst the bride walks up the aisle would be highly unusual, whilst the opposite would be true for a wedding reception. This begs the question, is there any occasion where playing both new and old* music would be a good idea? Yet, again this depends on the place, time, and people attending. When my school principal passed away last year due to cancer, she didn't want her funeral to be depressing and insisted that her family would throw a party instead. Obviously, they didn't play Chopin's "Funeral March" at her burial. The school then planted a frangipani tree, representing life, growth, and vibrancy, on campus in her honour. In short, when choosing a song for an occasion, it's less about when the piece was made and more about what the piece is commemorating.

*Some songs are also considered timeless masterpieces and can still be popular years after its initial release.

- **Would you rather decorate your home with old art or new art—or with new recreations of old art? How about your school or workplace?**

- Overall, the issue of old art vs new art isn't a big deal. Personally, whilst at home at least, I would prefer to use art that I like, irregardless of whether it is old or new. With a school or workplace, it once again depends. Some schools may buy older pieces of art as investments whilst others may commission artists to create modern art that is in tune with the current school and its atmosphere (feel the vibes!).
- **Are high school versions of popular musicals examples of censorship?**
 - Wikipedia defines censorship as the 'suppression of speech, public communication, or other information, on the basis that such material is considered objectionable, harmful or sensitive.' According to this definition, high school versions of musicals that have redacted what is considered 'inappropriate' for that audience could technically be considered censorship. However, it can also be argued that it is not restricting the speech of these individuals. Censorship implies that someone with power is restricting speech, but high schoolers removing swear words from songs is as far from that as you can get. It's not 'suppression' or 'prohibition' of parts of the songs but more like a redaction. At the end of the day, it's less about preventing high schoolers from conveying the lessons or messages of songs and more about maintaining decorum and courtesy in a learning environment.

Everything Old is Renewed Again

- **All over the world, there are efforts to create new versions of other works. Sometimes, the originals no longer exist; sometimes, they do. Sometimes, the new work is a strict imitation of the original; sometimes, it is reinterpreted for a new place or time. Sometimes, the old work is repaired to be newish again—or converted directly into a new one.**
- **Recreations and Restorations (Xavier, Jutin, Elise)**
 - [Notre-Dame de Paris](#) | Paris, France
 - The Notre Dame is a world famous cathedral, built in Paris from 1160 – 1260AD, with four different architects working on it. The cathedral was severely damaged during the French Revolution (1790s), before a major restoration project was undertaken from 1844–1864.

On the 15th of April, 2019 parts of the Notre Dame Cathedral burnt down, including the majority of the roof and the spire. Days after this tragic event had occurred, the Prime Minister of France declared an architecture competition for the new spire, assisting in the decision of the Parliament over whether to restore the building (for a second time) as it originally was or to build a new spire. The proposed designs include golden, metal flames, a spire that would travel above the clouds or even building a fruit and vegetable garden inside! The winning design ([Paris Heartbeat](#)) was by Zeyu Cai & Sibe Li, made out of mirrors (to show the ever changing city) and including a time capsule and a kaleidoscopic interior but it seems unlikely that this will be built. 55% of the French wish to keep the Notre Dame exactly the same as it previously was, and the French Parliament have released a law which recognises the need to 'preserve the

historic, artistic and architectural history of the monument,' which seems to heavily imply that the roof and spire are going to be restored rather than recreated. If restoration does occur, it is expected to take 20-40 years to complete!

Notre-Dame de Paris, written by Victor Hugo and published in 1831, is a classic French novel more known in the English-speaking world by its English title, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*. Set in Paris in 1482, it tells the story of a 16 year old Romani girl named Esmerelda, who is at first adored by the people of Paris, then hated by them, before she is falsely accused of attempted murder and executed. The story isn't too important, as the significance of the work comes from its themes, what it advocates for, and the effects it has had on history and culture.

- The book has been adapted dozens of times, but some of the more well known adaptations gloss over the core theme and purpose of the work — the inherent value of architecture and what historical buildings represent. It contains several lengthy descriptive sections that serve little narrative purpose, mainly describing the Notre-Dame cathedral and other buildings.

Hugo began writing *Notre-Dame de Paris* in 1829 in an effort to promote the value of Gothic architecture, as he noticed it was often ignored or demolished in favour of more modern buildings. But perhaps more notably, he wrote it to encourage others to care about and save the Notre-Dame cathedral itself, which was falling apart due to neglect and age. This worked — the immense popularity of the book was vital in kicking off historical preservation movements in France, and led to the major restoration project that took place from 1844–1864.

- [The Last Supper](#) | **Sister Plautilla Nelli**
 - This isn't *The Last Supper* by Leonardo DaVinci, but rather one painted by one of his contemporaries. Sister Plautilla Nelli was an unusual member of the art world, as she painted at a time when women were not meant to paint, and she was also a nun. As a nun, Sister Plautilla was able to pursue art whilst most other women were banned from it. She, along with other members of her covent, would generally take smaller projects. However, this project was likely worked on with eight nuns within the covent, and was created in the late 1560s. The 7m x 2m canvas was hung in the convent until the early 1800s, when it was acquired by the covent Santa Maria Novella. It was transferred into storage in the early 1900s, where it sustained some damage, before being taken out of storage in the 1980s and finally being acquired by scholars in the 1990s. Over four years, this piece was restored by Advancing Women Artists (AWA), a group of only female artists. The restoration process involved removing a thick layer of varnish, treating flaking paint and trying to figure out the chemical composition of the pigments, before finally retouching it.

Interestingly, the restoration of this painting occurred in a ‘workshop style’ where artists with varying levels of expertise all restored the painting, replicating the effect of having multiple people paint it. Sister Plautilla’s painting is incredibly detailed, and you can see the individual veins of their hands and the cuticles on their fingers. The restoration of the painting was completed in 2019, and can now be viewed in the museum of Santa Maria Novella.

- **[Edo Castle](#) | Tokyo, Japan**

- Edo Castle was built from 1607—1638 under the orders of Shogun Hidetada and Shogun Iemitsu. The purpose of this castle was to serve as a symbol of peace, and project the authority of the Shogunate as far as possible. This five-story building’s main tower was 59m tall, and would be about the same height as an 18-story apartment building. However, the tower was burnt down in 1657 after the Great Fire of Meireki. Now, many people within Tokyo (modern day Edo) are attempting to get this main tower rebuilt, as they say it is the ultimate symbol of Tokyo. The Group to Aim for the Reconstruction of Edo Castle (as they are called) has over 1800 subscription paying members, and believe that the rebuilding of this monument would raise the spirits of many Japanese, as well as attract tourists to the country.

However, there are many challenges that the group would face: firstly, no one has seen the Edo Castle since it was burnt down over 300 years ago. The only surviving document has been a plan of one of the castle towers, hand drawn by its head builder. This document allowed Masayuki Miura to create a 3D model of it, showing the glamour and majesty of it. The other major issues include the gargantuan costs, though The Group for the Reconstruction of Edo Castle are planning on relying on funding from citizens, not the government, and the location. The proponents of rebuilding Edo Castle suggest that it be rebuilt in the exact same location it previously was, which is unfortunately part of the gardens of the Imperial Palace, the residence of the Japanese Emperor. So far, no one has been consulted on this, as those who wish to rebuild Edo Castle have said they will only do so when they are sure that they have the resources and technologies to do so. In the end, the decision will be at the hands of public opinion.

- **[Zodiac Heads](#) | Ai Weiwei**

- The Zodiac Heads are busts of the Chinese Zodiac animals made by Ai Weiwei, a Chinese contemporary artist and political commentator, and based on the Italian Jesuit’s, Giuseppe Castiglione, work in 2010. Castiglione was a missionary in China who often painted in a style that fused European and Chinese traditions. He also was the architect that designed the water fountain clock at Yuanming Yuan, an old summer palace, in the mid-eighteenth century which had the very Zodiac heads that inspired Weiwei’s work. During the Second Opium War in 1860, the fountainheads were looted while the French and British invaded China and destroyed the The Yuanming Yuan.

Weiwei's choice to reinvent the heads encourages the discussion about the nuances and complexities of repatriation, authenticity, and the history and politics of art. Is this piece truly Chinese seeing how it was designed by someone who intended to spread European beliefs and culture throughout China? Does it do Chinese culture justice now that it is accessible to the general public and toured around the world when it was only previously available to the elite in the palace? Now that someone of Chinese heritage recreated it, is it authentically Chinese? These questions are brought into the light with Weiwei's work.

- [Ecce Homo](#) | **Cecilia Giménez**

- The Ecce Homo is a portrait of Jesus and the crown of thorns that Cecilia Giménez tried to restore for her church as it was slowly flaking away. Giménez feared that if it was left alone, soon Jesus' face would be removed entirely—so in 2012, Giménez, then 81, took it upon herself to renew the portrait. She initially planned to block in the colours on top of the painting and then add the details later but she went on a very long vacation after painting in the colours and the local historical association caught wind of what she was doing. They then posted a before and after picture using Giménez's unfinished restoration and it became a viral hit, shorthand for something going terribly wrong.

The restoration began as an object of ridicule, then became a meme, and is now a tourist attraction. The town of Borja, Spain takes four times as many tourists as it did today than before Giménez's work was popularised, although some criticise the town's monetisation of the restoration as it makes light of Spain's history with botched restoration projects. Improper conservation of a work can be irreversible and can even permanently damage the work. It brings the issue of whether or not we should celebrate or tolerate such carelessness when handling evidence of culture, especially those from history.

- **Copies and Clones (Xavier)**

- [The Thinker](#) | **Rodin**

- The Thinker is one of the most famous sculptures in the world, depicting an individual sitting down, lost in thought. The Thinker was originally named 'The Poet' and was part of a larger work depicting the first part of Dante's Inferno. However, workers commented on how it looked like The Thinker by Michelangelo, resulting in him separating the artwork for individual exhibition. In 1904, an enlarged version was created. This enlarged version was cast 28 times during Rodin's lifetime, and then many more casts were made after his death, both of the enlarged and smaller versions. These casts are generally exhibited in museums and public places. The number of these is ridiculous, with some being spread out across India, China, the UK, France, the U.S., and the list goes on, and on. The first ever bronze casting can now be found in the Rodin

Museum, (see above link) where they say it is “one of the most celebrated sculptures ever known.”

- [Notre Dame de Haute in Zhengzhou](#)

- Notre Dame de Haute was constructed by Le Corbusier in 1955 in Ronchamp, France, and is widely regarded as one of his best pieces of architecture. The building, used as a chapel, is made primarily of concrete, and is an incredible, irregular shape. It contains stained glass windows, its roof suspended slightly above the walls, acting as a natural fountain that pours rain off of the roof and allows a small amount of light to enter the building, making it feel more open. However, this chapel has been replicated almost exactly in the Chinese city of Zhengzhou. Foundation Le Corbusier intervened, resulting in the building being partially demolished. Nowadays, a restaurant operates in the ruins of the Notre Dame de Haute in Zhengzhou. This is a perfect example of when a work isn't close to inspiration, and is instead outright plagiarism.

- [Guggenheim Abu Dhabi](#)

- The Guggenheim is an art gallery within NYC, founded in 1955. Solomon R. Guggenheim, the benefactor that funded its construction, donated hundreds of artworks to the collection and funded a large amount of the project, although he died before it could be completed. The Guggenheim has since been recognised as an architectural marvel, and has been proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Since 1980, the Guggenheim has begun to expand around the world—first with Guggenheim Venice, then Guggenheim Bilbao, and currently, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. The project has been planned since 2007, and has only recently begun construction. The building will be next to The Louvre Abu Dhabi and will be comprised of large, irregular blocks. The floor space will be 12x the size of the Guggenheim NYC! The art gallery will showcase a range of art but will also celebrate art from within the UAE and the Middle East as a whole. The expansion of the Guggenheim displays the need for art worldwide, and the demand for large and well known organisations to expand onto the global stage.

- [The Empire Strikes Back](#) | **Roger Kastel**

- The Empire Strikes Back, the fifth (or second) film in the Star Wars franchise is thought of as one of the best movies of the nine that have been created. Of course, with a well known franchise such as Star Wars, rare memorabilia will be sold for expensive prices to collectors. This poster, used to promote The Empire Strikes Back, is interesting because it wasn't the final promotional poster used. Roger Kastel took inspiration from Gone with the Wind to create this poster, yet it was altered by George Lucas and Lucasfilm. Whilst altering it, Lucasfilm removed Lando Calrissian, Boba Fett and Cloud City from the poster, as well as removing the bright reds and oranges and replacing them with more muted tones. Yoda was also added into the poster. As this was such an interesting piece of art, being the original concept poster, it sold for \$26,400 at auction! It shows that the

original, despite the fact they're often less well known, can still be incredibly valuable!

- [Impossible Triangle](#) | **Barti Kher**
 - Welcome to modern art. A concrete chair with concrete beams attached to it. Seems unusual right? You may be wondering how this even is a copy/clone. In fact, Kher found a wooden chair at an antiques store, and then cast it in concrete. This creates a very disconcerting sculpture, as simply the change in materials completely alters the quality of the chair. The concrete beams were created in a similar way, with each of them being cast from wooden beams. These are then tied together using electrical wire to create this unbalanced, irregular sculpture. Should the original crafter of the chair be credited for this work? Are they responsible for the artwork? These are questions that only you can answer, kind scholars.
- [Vintage McDonald's](#)
 - It seems like McDonald's has been around since the dawn of time, but in actuality, it's only been around for a few decades. The earliest McDonald's still visible today can be found in Downey, L.A., and is actually the fourth McDonald's ever to open. Opened in 1953, it has some noticeable differences that set it apart from newer McDonald's buildings: before you even come near it, instead of seeing the golden arches, you will see a single golden arch, with an unusual mascot suspended above it — an anthropomorphic hamburger named Speedee. Previously, this McDonald's was independent from the wider chain, resulting in it not updating its menu to include items such as the Big Mac. However, it was bought in 1990, when it was the last McDonald's that was not part of the chain. The menu of this McDonald's now remains almost identical to the current one. Downey McDonald's also contains a museum, which has various McDonald's memorabilia from past decades. Overall, this McDonald's shows the incredible evolution which has occurred over the years. We don't think of McDonald's as an innovator in the fast food industry, but the efforts it has made (though we may not have seen them) have propelled it forward into the giant it is today.
- **Adaptive Reuse (Xavier)**
 - [Jaegersborg Water Tower](#) | **Copenhagen, Denmark**
 - Jaegersborg Water Tower was created in the 1950s due to a rapidly growing population and an elevated demand for water. However, in the modern day, there wasn't much use for this water tower. Therefore, a competition was held for the contract to convert the tower into a mixed space building, with the contract being won by Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter. The building is now used as a youth centre, as well as residences for youth. Each residential unit is around the outside of the building, leaving the middle for storage space and communal areas. Each unit has a balcony and an oriel (a window supported from below), allowing light to enter. On the lower floors (1—3) are large, multipurpose rooms that allow this space to

be used for a variety of different things. The overhead doors can also be opened out, creating even more space. Overall, the Jaegersborg Water Tower is a wonderful example of adaptive reuse that demonstrates how even previous buildings used for utility can be modified for comfort.

- [Stamba Hotel](#) | **Tbilisi, Georgia**

- The Stamba Hotel came from rather humble beginnings, with the building originally being a Soviet Printing Press. However, this Printing Press was transformed into a large, high ceilinged hotel. Whilst designing the new hotel, the number one focus was on preserving the Soviet Era architecture. To quote Valeri Chekheria, the leader of the team who transformed the building into the Stamba Hotel, “we wanted to show what the building was like when it was a publishing house. We didn’t change the walls, we didn’t change the ceiling, we kept it like it was before.” One of the main changes was the installation of a glass bottomed swimming pool on the roof, allowing light to travel through and interact with the plants and printing equipment suspended above the guests. The guest rooms have also undergone quite a transformation — all are a quite large 56m². The rooms also contain books and pieces of art by Tbilisi artists. Overall, the Stamba Hotel focuses on preserving the old memory of the building whilst bringing it new life, as well as using it as a way to increase interaction within the community (as it has area geared towards social events and public activities).

- [Tate Modern](#) | **London, England**

- The Tate Modern is one of the UKs premier art galleries, focused on the presentation of modern art to the public. However, until 1981, the building was the site of the Bankside Power Station. Plans were made to demolish it in the 1990’s, but the Tate Gallery announced that this building would be the new location of their Tate Modern! The £135 million pound transformation took 4.5 years and involved two storey glass extensions to the building, with the interior of the power station left mostly unchanged. Around 5 million people visited the building when it opened in 2000, twice the amount of people who’d visited any Tate Art Gallery in the previous year! Plans were made in 2004 to convert the Southern area of the building into an expanded art gallery, resulting in the conversion of ‘The Tanks’ in 2012 (three oil tanks being turned into performance and art spaces) as well as the construction of the Switch House (now known as the Blavatnik Building). Half of the original Switch House was demolished to allow for the creation of the new building, but the newer construction still follows the same design and utilises bricks as its main building material. Overall, the Tate Modern retains the spirit of the Bankside Power Station whilst creating its own beauty, through its reuse of these areas to store and present art. To quote the above article, “a museum’s architecture shouldn’t be its best exhibit, but here it steals the show.”

- [Zeitz MOCAA](#) | **Cape Town, South Africa**

- Zeitz MOCAA once again repurposes what would be thought of as utilities in a brilliant way. The building is an art museum, but instead of being built, it was primarily carved out of 116 grain silos that were previously part of Cape Town's Grain Silo Complex. The silos retained their structural integrity and authenticity, but now hold 80 galleries, together being the largest collection of contemporary art from Africa! Spiral staircases and glass elevators within the atrium allow you to travel up the floors, including The Silo Hotel on the top floor, rooftop sculpture gardens, and restaurants. The building is a symbol of the renaissance within Cape Town, transforming it into the cosmopolitan city that it is today.
- [Salt Building](#) | **Vancouver, Canada**
 - The Salt Building was previously a salt refinery within Vancouver, built to accommodate for salt shipped from San Francisco. A small dock-like structure was located at the front of the building, used for unloading salt. However, as the railway became the primary source of transportation, the Salt Building changed uses, becoming a paper recycling plant, before eventually being acquired by the city of Vancouver. In an attempt to preserve the original building and to ensure that interest remained in the city's history, they transformed the Salt Building into a bakery, coffee shop, and brewpub, located in the middle of the 2010 Winter Olympic Village. By adapting the Salt Building instead of building a new structure, they saved \$19,000 per year by being 59% more energy efficient, as well as by having 98% of the construction waste diverted away from landfills, and whilst parts of the building (the North and the South) were partially replaced with large, glazed windows, allowing occupants to see beautiful views.
 - However, the building hardly changed, with 75% of the outer shell and supports remaining exactly the same as they were previously. The Salt Building serves not only as a wonderful piece of architecture, or a brilliant example of adaptive reuse, but as a location communities can gather at whilst educating people on its history and the sustainable building practices that allowed it to become what it is today.
- **Works of art can celebrate change in the world: the steady movement of the seasons, and moments of unexpected progress. They can also communicate concern—artists don't always think the new is the improved.**
- **New Times Are Here Again (Xavier)**
 - [Ladies Celebrating Diwali](#) | **Unknown**
 - This watercolor painting, created in 1760, depicts the Hindu Festival/Celebration of Diwali, also known as the festival of lights. This festival symbolises the 'victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance,' and is carried out over five days. Though it's celebrated primarily by Hindus, it's also celebrated by Sikhs, Jains and Newar Buddhists. There is differing religious significance for each of these groups, but it all relates to renewal and new life, most commonly in relation to the New Year. The festival involves lighting oil lamps (known as Diyas), setting off sparklers, visiting relatives, feasting, and

cleaning/decorating workplaces. The painting depicts the third day of Diwali, known as Lakshmi Pujan, the day with the most celebrations, during which fireworks and sparklers are set off. Ladies Celebrating Diwali includes actual gold, used to create the sparks from the sparklers! The painting shows the joy and majesty that occurs during these New Year celebrations, and attempts to convey the significance of such an event.

- [Spring Lantern Festival](#) | **Zhang Daqian**

- This is a depiction of the Chinese Lantern Festivals, traditionally celebrated on the 15th Day of the 1st month of the New Year in the Chinese Calendar, the final day of New Years celebrations. The festival has been traced back to Emperor Ming of the Han Dynasty, over 2000 years ago. The most popular belief is that Emperor Ming (an advocate of Buddhism) saw that Buddhist Monks would light lanterns on that specific day within their temples, and therefore Ming decreed that everyone must light lanterns within their workplaces and homes, after which it developed into a folk tradition. In the past, these lanterns (besides those owned by the emperor) were rather simple, and were traditionally red, as this symbolised good fortune. Today, these lanterns are much larger, and often feature more complex designs (such as those in the painting shown by Daqian Zhang), often with animals printed on them. The lanterns often symbolise letting go of yourself and becoming new as the New Year approaches. Though the Lantern Festival was traditionally celebrated in Mainland China, it is now celebrated around the world in areas with large Chinese Populations (including the city I'm from, Christchurch!).

- [Giant Manure Rooster](#) | **Mikhail Bopposov**

- Welcome to the most unusual piece of art in the curriculum (so far...)! This is, rather logically, a giant rooster made out of manure. Constructed in December 2016 in Northern Siberia, Russia, this was created to mark the beginning of the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Rooster. In the past, Bopposov has made sculptures for both the Year of the Monkey and the Year of the Goat, as well as sculptures of dragons and horses, all created out of dung. The reason dung is used for the sculptures is because it's one of the easiest materials to shape within the harsh climate of Northern Siberia. The sculpture is over 4m tall, and is sturdy enough to stand on, though after Bopposov injured his leg during the construction, that may be a little difficult. The sculpture ended up melting by Spring. There is some beauty in the old rising from the new, but I doubt the sculpture is quite as beautiful when you are close enough to smell it.

- [Android Lawn Statues](#) | **Google, Inc.**

- These are a series of statues found near the Google Visitor Centre, each based around some sort of sweet food. This is because, starting with version 1.5, Google began creating statues named after its operating systems, which just so happen to be named after desserts (e.g. Cupcake, Eclair). The statues are named in alphabetical order, with the next one being 'Q' (best of luck with that Google).

The statues also often feature the Android Alien, such as the Jellybean statue, which has jelly beans pouring out of him. A few days before the release of each new update, Google unveils the newest statue, allowing people to find out what this update will be named. The sculptures are primarily made by Themendous, and are a neat way of commemorating the new updates that come out.

- **New Leaders to Dim the Way (Xavier)**

- [The Passing of Shah Jahan](#) | **Abanindranath Tagore**

- Shah Jahan was an Indian Mughul, most well known for constructing the Taj Mahal for his favorite wife. This painting is in the Mughal style, which is based around miniature drawings, roughly the size of a book page. This style was primarily developed from the 16th to 18th Century. However, this painting was created in 1902. Previously, Tagore had used the style of ‘realism’ within his paintings. However, his tutor Binfield Havell introduced him to many forms of Indian art, including Mughal Miniatures. He then combined this with the Indian artistic concept of Bhava’ (or emotion) to create this small yet powerful image. Within it, we see Shah Jahan on his deathbed, with his daughter at the end of the bed. Shah Jahan is looking off into the distance, and we can see that he is focussing onto the Taj Mahal. The designs on the arches are incredibly detailed, and the painting as a whole is full of emotion. Tagore went on to become an incredibly well-known Indian artist, with his artwork inspiring many others to create similar masterpieces.

- [The Royal Family in 1846](#) | **Franz Xavier Winterhalter**

- This painting depicts Queen Victoria and Prince Consort Albert (Royals of the British Empire), together with all the children that they had in 1846 (Princess Victoria, Prince Albert-Edward, Princess Alice, Prince Alfred and Princess Helena). Within the painting, you can obviously see the theme of royalty conveyed, both through the richly colored red chairs and curtains, as well as the clothing and jewelry that the royals are wearing. Also, the chairs and curtain create an almost stage-like background, conveying that there is some sort of facade that Victoria and Albert are putting on. This is further emphasised by the fact that they are wearing some of their most formal clothes simply to watch their children play. This painting was created by Franz Xavier Winterhalter, the court-painter of France, and was considered beautiful by the Queen. Originally, it was going to be a private photo, seen only by a few of the Queen’s friends, until these friends gave it such high praise that she felt that she must allow the public to see it. However, the press were not so kind, criticising it for it’s ‘sensual and fleshy’ depiction of the royals, as well as likening Prince Consort Albert’s hands to a farmer’s. The only consolation that the public had was that it wasn’t made by an Englishman.

- [Inauguration](#) | **Jack Levine**

- At first glance, this painting simply focuses on two people, with a mess of objects, both identifiable and unidentifiable, swirling around them. However, the

painting is actually depicting the swearing in of a U.S. President. He has since said that this individual is not a single U.S. President, he is in fact a combination of Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower. Levine attempted to paint in an amateur-esque way, similar to many amateur artists of the time period, yet he put a lot of extra details into the painting that aren't easily discernible. It is full of symbols representing the United States, such as an eagle and an American Flag, as well as many other objects that aren't immediately identifiable, surrounding the central individuals. Levine manages to convey the chaotic nature of U.S. politics through this painting, and how power changes very quickly, despite the fact that the faces seem to remain the same.

- [Matrix of Leadership](#) | **Sara Pitre-Durocher**
 - Matrix of Leadership is the artwork used as the cover for the comic Transformers: Historia, which recaps the original Transformers series (2005 – 2019) in preparation for the reboot. However, the part of this that is relevant to this part of the curriculum (New Leaders to Dim the Way) comes from the Matrix of Leadership. Get ready for some series fan-wiki information. The Autobot Matrix of Leadership is a holy relic within the Transformers Universe. The Matrix acts as a way to channel the power of Primus, the Holy Figure who the Autobots follow. The Matrix's main power comes from its ability to create new Transformers or to access the Transformer Afterlife, allowing current leaders to converse with and consult leaders of the past. In fact, on the front cover of the Transformers: Historia comic, we see characters and concepts from throughout the Transformers series coming out of the Matrix. Of course, it would be useful if we were able to consult with leaders of our past, but unfortunately, this is just a fiction for us. The artwork, however, shows us how many leaders came before and built all that we have now.
- **New Hopes in the Dark (Xavier)**
 - [Mural in Reactor No.5](#) | **Guido Van Helten**
 - The Chernobyl disaster is well known as the worst nuclear disaster to ever occur, with 30 people dying instantly after Reactor No. 4 blew up, and many others dying of radiation poisoning shortly after. In 2016, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of this disaster, Guido Van Helten (with the help of many groups) painted a mural inside of Reactor No. 5! It was based off of a photo taken by Igor Kostin, a photographer who documented Chernobyl and the impacts of the nuclear meltdown. However, he was exposed to a lethal amount of radiation and died in 2015. The mural's purpose was to both commemorate Kostin and his incredible efforts and, in the words of Van Helten, 'to create a work that honored... the importance of photojournalism as a medium of sharing information with the world.' Despite the fact that the Chernobyl disaster took place over 30 years ago, we can hope that artwork like this can preserve our memories of it and provide hope that nothing this horrific will ever happen again.
 - [One Spring](#) | **Karl Bodek and Kurt Conrad Löw**

- This beautiful piece of artwork is the focus of Art from the Holocaust, a collection of artworks that Jewish artists painted during World War II. One Spring was a collaboration between two artists at the Gurs Camp in the South of France. The artwork is tiny — only 15cm x 10cm — but has an incredibly powerful message. It features a butterfly sitting on the barbed wire of a concentration camp, a bus passing by behind it, with the Pyrenees Mountains of the Spanish/French border in the background. The butterfly represents the hope of Bodek and Löw and their desire for freedom. Overall, the artwork is a statement that they have hope for the future. Though Löw escaped to Switzerland, Bodek unfortunately died at the Gurs camp. The watercolor and pencil artwork serves as a powerful reminder that there is always hope, even in the most troubling of circumstances.
- [Mine Kafon Wind-Powered Deminer](#) | **Massoud Hassani:**
 - One major, yet largely undiscussed issue, is landmines. It is estimated that there are over 110 million active landmines in the world, each one possessing the capability to kill an innocent civilian. One reason why landmines aren't regularly disarmed is due to the immense cost of such projects — estimations say that it costs approximately \$1,200 USD to disarm a single landmine. Enter Massoud Hassani, a Afghani refugee who currently lives in the Netherlands. He was inspired by this issue, and created the Mine Kafon Wind-Powered Deminer. This is a 17kg iron casing surrounded by bamboo legs, each capped with circular 'feet', resulting in it weighing about as much as an adult. This device can be rolled across an area that is mined and then move thanks to the wind, resulting in it detonating mines that it travels over. As it detonates these mines, only a few of the legs will be blown off, resulting in it detonating multiple mines every single time it's released. Thanks to GPS technology, individuals are able to track its path and then safely retrieve it, after which they can then replace any legs that were blown off. The legs and feet are made completely out of biodegradable materials as well! The best thing about it: one of these only costs \$45 USD. This cheap technology is beautiful, as it gives us hope that mines can one day be eliminated from this Earth.
- [Geo Co Lab](#) | **Zachary Skinner**
 - This is a collaborative piece of multimedia art that evolved over time. Zachary Skinner is an artist who is particularly passionate about climate change, especially the idea of geoengineering (see the Science Curriculum Notes for more on geoengineering). Because of this, Skinner was inspired to create Geo Co Lab. This is composed of areas spread out across a room containing prompts about specific types of geoengineering written onto the walls, such as solar, or upper atmosphere, and chalkboards, which members of the public can then draw their ideas for geoengineering solutions onto. The best of these solutions are then drawn onto the walls, resulting in the gallery slowly losing chalkboards and being replaced by ideas. Skinner shows us that people are enthusiastic about

climate change efforts when it allows them to be creative, and shows us the importance of collective human effort. Science may offer a solution to the climate crisis, but without the output of humanity it will never be realised.

- [Detroit Industry Murals](#) | **Diego Rivera**
 - This is a fresco, commissioned by the Ford Motor Company, with the only guideline being that it must revolve around the theme of industrial culture within Detroit. Though this seems like a rather restrictive theme, Rivera (with assistance from Frida Kahlo) ran with it! The 27 murals include how we are in harmony with nature (East Wall), how there is both good and bad industry (West Wall), and the Four Elements and the Four Races (North / South Wall). The main focus of this art are the large frescos along the North and South Wall. The North Wall Mural, (23m x 5m) depicts a bustling factory line, remaining busy and interesting whilst also conveying the camaraderie of the workers. The South Wall depicts the manufacturing process of the automobile, specifically the final step of putting on the car's exterior. In the corner are the two members of the Ford Motor Company who were his patrons for the creation of the mural. Throughout this piece, there are many items that act as symbols of Christian and Aztec culture, as well as items that convey a general theme of utopia. Rivera attempts to depict a world in which industry can interact with nature in a positive way, and help us all to live in a better world.
- **New Anxieties in the World of Tomorrow (Xavier)**
 - [The Last Supper](#) | **Julie Green**
 - This is, once again, not the Last Supper of Leonardo DaVinci, but a much darker one. Julie Green addresses the issue of the death penalty through the medium of painted ceramic bowls/plates. One day when she was living in Oklahoma, she picked up the daily newspaper and ended up reading the final meals of each inmate who had been executed the previous night. She believes that these last meal requests, due to how specific and personal they are, humanise these inmates. Inspired by this, she began to create art to further the idea that these criminals on Death Row had lives, had their own thoughts, and were indeed people — they were human. On each of the plates, she paints the final meal that an inmate in the U.S. had before their death, and has so far created over 800 plates. She has promised to keep making 50 of these plates every single year until the death penalty has been abolished. This isn't simply art — it's a question and a challenge. This dedication to art for a cause shows the deeply held beliefs many people have in provoking the termination of the death penalty, and The Last Supper is incredibly useful in encouraging this change for both its cultural and religious significance. The impact that seeing all 800 plates can have, and knowing that each plate is of someone who's passed away, is near life-changing. Hopefully, we will see the death penalty abolished in the future.
- [Gulf of Maine Temperature Variability](#) | **Jill Pelto**

- The Gulf of Maine is home to over 2,000 different species of fish and birds, and is one of the most diverse gulfs in the world (a gulf being a deep inlet from the sea, surrounded by a narrow mouth). However, due to the effects of climate change, the temperature of the Gulf of Maine is rising by 0.06OC a year. This temperature rise is 7x times the global average and is rising faster than 99% of the ocean.
- The issue isn't just that the temperature is rising, but also that temperature fluctuations are getting more dramatic. In the painting, Pelto uses a graph of ocean temperature within the Gulf of Maine to represent ocean waves, showing the drastic changes in temperature that have occurred over time. We also see lobsters and shrimps retreating towards the ground, clams burrowing under the soil, and cod disappearing as they move closer to the right edge of the painting, representing the fact that these animals have to flee their natural habitats due to climate change. A boat can be seen in the distance, bringing our attention to the fact that not only are the temperatures rising, but the waters are also being overfished. Pelto tries to convey the complex interactions that occur within ecosystems such as the Gulf of Maine, and how we must attempt to keep temperature levels down.
- [Titanic](#) | **Muhammad Ansi**
 - Muhammad Ansi was a self taught artist. However, this was because he was imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, one of the USA's highest security prisons, for 15 years. While there he created landscapes and still lifes, almost always based on his imagination or on small video clips that he remembered. Titanic in particular is painted from his memory, as he and many other inmates were allowed to watch the movie when it was released. He painted this ill-fated ship traveling to the right, showing the hope and progress that those who created the Titanic believed could be made. Ansi was released from Guantanamo Bay in 2017.
- [Reborn Sounds of Childhood Dreams I](#) | **Ibrahim El-Salahi**
 - Reborn Sounds of Childhood Dreams I depicts black, flowing figures standing together rather ominously, nearly blending into each other. The Sudanese artist, Ibrahim El-Salahi, is well regarded as a figure who created a new vocabulary for art within Africa. Although the work evokes the idea of African Tribal Masks, El-Salahi has said that the “elongated, black-eyed, glittering facial shapes might represent the veils our mothers and grandmothers used to wear in public, or the faces of the drummers and tambourine players I had seen circling wildly during funeral ceremonies and chants in praise of Allah.” El-Salahi often takes inspiration from his own life, predominantly from his own memories, dreams, and visions during meditation. According to him, “in Reborn Sounds of Childhood Dreams I the lines and forms are infused with spirituality and social consciousness.”
 - In his mind, El-Salahi associates lines with communication -- lines are used to form letters, letters are used to form words, and words are used to convey ideas.

He was more inspired by Arabic calligraphy, which he associates with his childhood as his father ran a Quranic school and taught El-Salahi personally in their home. The connection between images and calligraphy is especially evident in this work as it encapsulates how the past, present, dreams, and memories conflict and blur.

- After Sudan gained independence from Britain in 1956, El-Salahi's work adapted to more closely mirror his society. He began to portray more Arabic and African cultures and aesthetics, painting in sombre tones (black, white, grey, yellow ochre, burnt sienna, and deep red) inspired by the colours of the Sudanese landscape.
- [Ussuryisk](#) | **Rossiya Airlines:**
 - In 2017, Rossiya Airlines painted an Amur leopard on the nose of one of its Boeing 777 aircraft, named Ussuryisk, though it more commonly goes by the name 'Leolyot', a portmanteau of the Russian words for 'leopard' and 'flight'. The Amur leopard is a wild cat, populating a specific area of Russian forest bordering China. It is considered critically endangered, with most sources estimating that there are less than 80 left in the wild. Because of this, a conversation campaign led by 'Far Eastern Leopards' begun and Rossiya Airlines got involved! On the flight, children are given leopard themed souvenirs and games, in hopes that this will assist in raising awareness for the Amur leopard. Rossiya Airlines have also painted an Amur tiger (nicknamed Tigrolyot) onto one of their aircraft. While these efforts seem small, they are at least assisting in the conservation efforts, which is more than can be said of most companies. Though it is very concerning that there are animals becoming endangered, it is comforting to know there are efforts being made to show that this is a relevant issue, and that there are people doing their best to help.

And the Band Auto-Plays On (Jutin, Xavier, and Blaithan)

- **Music lends itself to renewal more easily than art and architecture. It's standard fare for a new artist to record their own version of an existing song and present it to the world as a cover; many aspiring singers even begin their careers (or end them) imitating other more successful performers.**
- **Which is more impressive: performing someone else's song in a new way or imitating them as much as possible? (Blaithan)**
 - **Hallelujah** | [Leonard Cohen](#) vs. [Jeff Buckley](#)
 - "Hallelujah" was a song originally written by Leonard Cohen and released in 1975. This version saw little success and went almost unnoticed until 1991 when John Cale released his own version, which gained significantly more attention from the public. Cale's version then inspired Jeff Buckley to record his own version, which was released in 1994. Although it was not an instant hit, it charted in 2006 and had sold around 1,144,000 digital copies as of May 2010. An article by The Independent states "Cohen has allegedly acknowledged it [Buckley's

cover] to be his favourite version.” Without Buckley’s version of the song, “Hallelujah” would not have been the hit song it is today, with over 300 different covers, and Cohen’s original could’ve been lost to time.

- **I Will Always Love You** | [Dolly Parton](#) vs. [Whitney Houston](#)

- Recorded in 1973, Dolly Parton’s “I Will Always Love You” was a huge success, reaching number one on the Billboard Hot Country Songs twice in 1974 and 1982. In 1992, almost 20 years after the song’s original release, R&B singer Whitney Houston recorded her own version of the song for the film *The Bodyguard*. When Parton found out that they were basing the new arrangement off of Linda Ronstadt’s 1975 version, she gave them the final verse to the song (which was missing in Ronstadt’s cover) as she believed it was an important part.

Houston’s version reached number one in the weekly charts of 25 different countries between 1992 and 1993. There was no feud between the two over the song, with Parton thanking Houston for extending the song’s audience and Houston thanking Parton for writing such a beautiful and moving song. This new performance of the original song impressed many people around the world, including the original songwriter. Parton said in a statement to *Billboard* on the day of Houston’s death, “mine is only one of the millions of hearts broken over the death of Whitney Houston. I will always be grateful and in awe of the wonderful performance she did on my song and I can truly say from the bottom of my heart, ‘Whitney, I will always love you. You will be missed.’”

- **The Man Who Sold the World** | [David Bowie](#) vs. [Nirvana](#)

- “The Man Who Sold the World” was released by two very big and influential performers, David Bowie and Nirvana, with both versions achieving high popularity, living up to the performers’ stardom. David Bowie released the original version in 1970 on his third album, which was named after the song. He said that he wrote it because there was a part of himself that he was looking for, and went on to say the song was an example of “How you feel when you’re young, when you know that there’s a piece of yourself that you haven’t really put together yet. You have this great searching, this great need to find out who you really are.”

The rock band Nirvana did a cover of the song in 1993 during their MTV *Unplugged* performance, which Bowie was very impressed with. As Bowie was an English artist, he was unaware of his American audience until he found out that Kurt Cobain, the lead singer of Nirvana, liked his work and expanded the audience of the song to America. This shows the mutual benefit gained from covering other artist’s songs; Nirvana’s stylised rendition of “The Man Who Sold the World” gave Bowie and the band a much larger audience.

- **Africa** | [Toto](#) vs. [Weezer](#)

- The story of how Weezer ended up covering Toto's song "Africa" is definitely an interesting one. Toto originally released the song in 1982, although their keyboardist David Paich had been working on it six months prior to their recording. Paich explained that the song was about a person's love for the continent of Africa, not love for an actual person. As he had never been to Africa, the lyrics he wrote were based off of what he saw in a National Geographic article, and it took him almost six months before he showed it to the rest of Toto. The song uses a wide range of instruments to try and sound as authentic as possible, such as the congo, kalimba, and marimba.

In December 2017, a 14 year old in Cleveland, Ohio named Mary Klym tweeted on her account @WeezerAfrica "@RiversCuomo it's about time you bless the rains down in Africa." (Rivers Cuomo is the main vocalist and keyboardist of Weezer) After much debate Weezer finally released a cover of Toto's song "Rosanna" in May 2018 to troll Klym and those asking for their version of "Africa." The band then released a cover of "Africa" days later and in July, they began selling the vinyl which had the original tweet as the cover artwork.

Toto responded to this in July with their own cover of Weezer's "Hash Pipe," with guitarist Steve Lukather saying "we figured since we were smoking hash since before they were born, that's the one we should do. This is our tribute to Weezer. God bless 'em."

Weezer released a music video for their cover of "Africa" in September 2018 which has "Weird Al" Yankovic replace Rivers Cuomo and a band of doppelgängers replace the rest of Weezer. Even Yankovic having his signature accordion solo in the video. The new version of "Africa" definitely was done in an entirely new way, as well as Toto's cover of "Hash Pipe," showing that a simple tweet can grow into something much bigger.

- **Can't Help Falling in Love With You** | [Justin Shandor](#) vs. [Rudraksha](#) vs. [Elvis Presley](#)
 - "Can't Help Falling in Love With You" was released in 1961 by Elvis Presley and has been covered a countless amount of times since then. The song was used in the film Blue Hawaii from the same year, where it was not sung to Presley's character's girlfriend, but instead to his grandmother after he gave her a music box as a gift from his travels in the army. In 2010, 33 years after Presley died of a heart attack, Justin Shandor won an Elvis tribute contest held by Elvis Presley Enterprises and was named the "World's Ultimate Elvis!" His voice is so exceptional that in February 2013 after performing "Can't Help Falling in Love With You" on the Late Show with David Letterman, Letterman went to the stage and said "Justin, wonderful, Justin Shandor, ladies and gentlemen. One more, one more, let's go again, do it a little more, here we go!"

This makes his tribute so much more real as he is so similar to Elvis, unlike some other tribute artists. Shandor was able to keep Presley's memory alive for longer instead of letting it fade away as time goes on and new music is played.

The other version of this song is by Rudraksha, an Indian-Western fusion band that helped develop the fusion soft rock genre in India. They performed "Can't Help Falling in Love With You" in 2018 and incorporated many elements of Hindu culture into their version. The band brought back this song 57 years after it was first released and personalised it so it appealed to an audience very far away from America whilst also making people across the world aware of their culture through this beloved song.

- **New Year's Day | [Blood Red Sky](#) vs. [U2](#)**

- The song "New Year's Day" was released in January 1983 by Irish rock band U2. The lyrics to this song are inspired by the Polish Solidarity movement as Bono, the lead singer and songwriter, had pictured Lech Walesa, the Polish Solidarity leader, leading a worker's strike in the snow on New Year's Day. This would go on to become one of their most famous songs with a worldwide audience.

Blood Red Sky is a U2 tribute band that performs U2's songs identically to people in pubs and other venues. While it may be impressive that they are able to sound very similar to the original band, it begs the question of whether or not it is okay for a band to be paying tribute to an artist that is still alive.

If the artists in question were dead, paying tributes would be a good way to share the artist's work to a new or an already existing audience that want to keep the band's memory alive. Unlike art and literature, music is an entirely performance-based medium. A performance can only be experienced live once.

However, since all of the original four members of U2 are still alive and touring together, it seems wrong for Blood Red Sky to be imitating their music. Their version of the song was recorded in 2006 at the Hard Rock Café in Dallas, Texas on St. Patrick's Day. While it does have extended solos, running almost two minutes more than the original, the fact that they are tributing U2 when they are still performing makes it less of a tribute and more of an imitation, even if that wasn't the intention of the band.

- **What is the line between imitation and a new creation, when one performer—or musical trend—inspires another? (Jutin)**

- **[Айыптама](#) | Ninety-one vs. [Sober](#) | Big Bang**

- While there is no outright 'plagiarism' between these two songs per se, they have many aspects about them that are similar. "[Айыптама](#)", translating to "Don't Blame Me", released by Ninety-One in October 2015 parallels the lyrical themes

to “Sober”, a song by Big Bang published five months prior in June 2015. Both songs depict a sense of alienation from those close to them, as well as a defensive stance within the lyrics of the songs (see [here](#) and [here](#) for the translated lyrics). The artistic styles and general feel of both music videos mirrors each other and if you simply watch the music videos of these songs with the music muted, you can obviously see the stylistic and aesthetic resemblance to how the bands present themselves and act.

The timbre of the two songs is very similar also, using almost identical types of synthesizers and vocal production. Finally, the songs’ structure are also analogous to each other. Both contain large rap verses, spoken lines that lead into the pre-chorus, drops during the chorus, instrumental openings, and generally, the same order of verses and choruses. However, this could be attributed to the pop industry as a whole, as the music is very homogenous. Ultimately, the main takeaway from this is that Q-Pop (Kazakhstani Pop) is highly inspired by K-Pop, and these two songs are simply a demonstrator of this.

~Xavier

- [Introducing Me](#) | Nick Jonas vs. [I’m Yours](#) | Jason Mraz

- “I’m Yours” is a hit pop song written and sung by Jason Mraz in 2008. It was extremely successful on the Billboards charts and stayed on the Hot 100 for a record-breaking 76 weeks.

Two years later, 2010, Nick Jonas from the Jonas Brothers records a song written by Jamie Houston for a movie he starred in, Camp Rock 2. “Introducing Me” wasn’t as popular as “I’m Yours” as it was more targeted for your average Disney Channel viewer but it caught Mraz’s attention seeing how similar the two songs are in terms of melody. Both songs follow the classic I V vi IV (known as the 4 Chords Progression, and also used in “Don’t Stop Believing”, “Friday”, “YMCA”, and many, many more songs) chord progression, and there are many comparison videos online. Mraz chose not to sue the Jonas brothers as he believed it would cause more harm than good.

- [Orville Main Title Theme](#) | Bruce Broughton

- Orville is a Sci-Fi comedy and drama TV show that began in 2017. At a glance, it’s very reminiscent of Star Trek, which is why it’s also known to be a parody of the iconic sci-fi series. It follows a spaceship crew as they venture out into the universe far into the future, facing numerous dangerous trials and tribulations.

The two shows are often compared which brings attention to Orville’s opening title theme, which visually mimics the opening theme of Star Trek Voyager Season 1. Both follow the main spaceship soaring through space, passing by various sights from beautiful stars to threatening asteroid belts.

- **Can songs be given sequels in a way that makes sense to audiences? (~Jutin)**

Yes, just use leitmotifs, song lyrics that allude to, and/or visually reference the original work and audiences can piece together the clues and come to the conclusion that the song is a sequel.

- **The Killers | [Brightside](#) & [Miss Atomic Bomb](#)**

- “Mr Brightside” is the very first song The Killers wrote as a band in 2003. It achieved minor success in its initial release and was popularised in 2004 with its re-release. It is the Killer’s best-selling song and is one of the UK’s top 15 most downloaded rock songs. Lead singer, Brandon Flowers, wrote and guitarist, Dave Keuning, composed the song to be about Flower’s ex-girlfriend who cheated on him. There is irony imbued in the name ‘Mr Brightside’ as Flowers imagines how his girlfriend was cheating on him and talks about the pain, jealousy, and paranoia he felt while dating this girl throughout the entire song.

Almost 10 years later, The Killers releases “Miss Atomic Bomb” in 2012, the sequel to “Mr Brightside”, to portray how even though Flowers is now older and has moved on, he is still wounded from the girl who broke his heart. The song implies that the boy with “eager eyes” was simply naïve and blinded by infatuation. The name “Miss Atomic Bomb” serves as a metaphor to say that the girl he fell in love with was awe-inspiringly bright but was ultimately dangerous because of the injury she caused to his heart. He knows that it wasn’t meant to be and the damage dealt has healed but the scar is still there to remind him of the girl he once loved.

At time mark of 3:36 in the album version of the song, The Killers play the main riff from “Mr Brightside” as a leitmotif to connect the two songs. Shots from “Mr Brightside” are also replicated in the music video for “Miss Atomic Bomb”, all pointing to the fact that “Miss Atomic Bomb” is a continuation of the story of “Mr Brightside”.

- **Buddy Holly | [Peggy Sue](#) & [Peggy Sue Got Married](#)**

- “Peggy Sue” is a love song of the rock and roll genre written by Jerry Allison and Norman Petty and recorded and released by Buddy Holly. Holly was only added as a co-author after his death and Allison’s insistence. The band The Crickets was not credited in the release, but the band members played the string bass (Joe B. Mauldin) and drums (Jerry Allison) in the original recording. The song was initially supposed to be called ‘Cindy Lou’, after Holly’s niece, but when Jerry Allison broke up with his girlfriend, Peggy Sue Gerron, the name was later changed in an attempt to win her back.

Needless to say, it did win her back and Peggy later becomes Jerry’s wife. Holly even wrote a sequel to the track, “Peggy Sue Got Married,” which was posthumously released in 1959 after the rock legend died in a plane crash. The

song sings about a rumour that the girl that was in every song, Peggy Sue, “got married not long ago.”

- **Rebecca Black | [Friday & Saturday](#)**

- Rebecca Black’s infamous “Friday” is a song written and produced by Clarence Jey and Patrice Wilson. It has regrettably been heard by many (I’m sure including you) and amassed 166 million views on YouTube in the first four months it was released on March 14, 2011. It was taken down in June of the same year due to legal issues between the record label, ARK Music, and Rebecca Black. Despite its negative reviews, it became a cult classic and was parodied to death and popularised by social media in its early days.

In 2013, Rebecca made a sequel to her hit song named “Saturday” which explores the day after “Friday” as a collaboration with YouTube personality and cover artist Dave Days. It has many references to “Friday” from printed pictures seen in the music video for “Saturday” to the lyrics themselves: “2 PM, getting out of my bed / Trying to get Friday out of my head.” Like the original song, it is about going out, partying, and having the time of your lives with your friends. However, her lyrics for “Saturday” are more mature and talk much less about which seat to take in the car. It was a hit with critics as they liked how she was confident enough to revisit, address, and challenge her infamy.

- **What can lead an older song to achieve sudden new popularity? (~Jutin)**

- **St [Matthew Passion](#) | Johann Sebastian Bach (repopularized 1829)**

- Written by Johann Sebastian Bach in 1727, “St Matthew Passion” is chapters 26 and 27 of the Gospel of Matthew in the Luther Bible sung to music. Bach wrote “St Matthew Passion” to present the Passion story in music at Good Friday evening services, and it is regarded as one of the greatest masterpieces of classical sacred music. Bach’s Passions retells events leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion from his Last Supper, his agony in the Garden, his Sanhedrin trial, his trial before Pontius Pilate, his crucifixion and death on Good Friday, and his burial.

The narrative is told in two parts: the first highlights his arrest and the events leading up to it, while the second, more soft and sombre tonally, highlights everything from his trial to his burial. The piece ends sorrowfully, as if to have the listener wait expectantly for Jesus’ celebratory resurrection days later.

“St Matthew Passion” was almost only heard in Leipzig, Germany until 1829, when the twenty-year-old Felix Mendelssohn performed a version in Berlin, with the Berlin Singakademie, which was critically acclaimed. Mendelssohn’s revival brought the music of Bach, particularly Bach’s large-scale works, to public and scholarly attention.

- **[Ding-Dong! The Witch is Dead](#) | The Wizard of Oz (repopularized 2013)**

- This song is from the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, in which it is played after the Wicked Witch of the East is killed by Dorothy's house falling on her, and also after the death of the Wicked Witch of the West when Dorothy defeats her with a bucket of water. It was composed by Harold Arlen, with the lyrics written by E.Y. Harburg.

The song began charting the UK Singles Charts when an anti-Conservative group launched a Facebook campaign that encouraged sales of the song so that it would chart after the death of British stateswoman, former Prime Minister of the UK, and former leader of the Conservative Party, Margaret Thatcher in 2013. The song reached #2 on the chart and peaked atop the Scottish Singles Chart.

It was met with negative reactions, leading BBC Radio 1 to opt not to broadcast the song during its countdown programmer of *The Official Chart* due to distaste of celebrating a person's death. The lead singer of Notsensibles countered the campaign with his band's song, "I'm in Love with Margaret Thatcher", that also charted alongside "Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead."

- **[Don't Stop Me Now](#) | Queen (repopularized 2018)**

- "Don't Stop Me Now" is a song by the British rock band Queen from their 1978 album *Jazz* and was released as a single in 1979. Written by lead singer Freddie Mercury, it was recorded in August 1978. One of Queen's more iconic works, it is considered a cult classic and is often featured in movies, commercials, and shows.

In 2018, the original music video of the song was featured during the end credits of *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Released in December 2018, the film contained many historical inaccuracies but still became a major box office success, grossing over \$903 million worldwide on a production budget of about \$50 million. It was the sixth-highest-grossing film of 2018 worldwide, and set the all-time box office records for the biopic and drama genres.

- **In what ways can music help us cope with and understand a world that is changing all around us? (~Jutin)**

- **[A New Argentina](#) | *Evita***

- For those of you who don't know, Juan loathes musicals but unlike him, I (some would say unfortunately) live and breathe musicals. *Evita* is composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber (ALW) with lyrics by Tim Rice. The musical follows the actress Eva Perón, wife of Argentine President Juan Perón and First Lady of Argentina from 1946 until her death in 1952. It depicts her early life, rise to power via her marriage with Perón, up to her resignation from her vice presidency campaign due to cancer.

In "A New Argentina," Eva sings to Juan about how he should not resign from

his political campaigns and leave the country simply because he's afraid of being denounced by twenty or so political figures when the nation is largely in support of him. Eva was a working class woman, and she uses their relationship to perpetuate the belief that Perón loves the working class: "If not, how could he [Perón] love me [Eva]?" She is insistent that Perón aims for presidency as his power is also extended to her.

- **More intense musical analysis:**

The song is meticulously written and if you watch the live performance, it paints a great picture of Perón and his situation as the future Argentine President. When the group of workers come in and sing for Perón, communist terminology and connotations are implied, as Perón's campaign relied on propaganda. When Eva sings about the people serving power to Perón on a silver platter, LuPone portrays her as having ulterior motives, showing that Eva's marriage to Perón is just a means to an end. The people don't see Eva's control over Perón — the song sounds as if it is about Perón but it actually is about Eva and her attempts to climb the social ladder.

- **Extra Musical Jargon!**

Eva is one of the most vocally taxing and difficult singing roles in musical theatre and Patti LuPone is renowned due to her playing Eva the 'best.' Andrew Lloyd Webber had very little regard for human limitations when writing the score for this musical. Right after a lengthy verse, he expects the singers to belt with very little time to recover or prepare. Needless to say, it's hard to pull off the high notes of "A New Argentina" without sounding screamy or shrill. In case LuPone's majestic singing is eerily familiar to you, she voices Yellow Diamond from Steven Universe.

Because this relates to the syllabus, here's more information: the composer of this song is often accused of plagiarism! Andrew Lloyd Webber composed Phantom of the Opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, Cats, and many more musicals, all of which have scores that have been accused of being stolen from other artists. If you'd like to know more, here's a [video](#) comparing Webber's work and the songs that they could be from. It makes you think about the line between original pieces, inspired works, and plain mimicry.

- **[The Future Soon](#) | Jonathan Coulton**

- "The Future Soon" was written and released in 2004 by Jonathan "JoCo" Coulton as his very first EP, Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow. JoCo is a well-known self-described geek who wrote "Still Alive" for the video game Portal, "Want You Gone" for its sequel Portal 2, and "Re: Your Brains" for the horror video game Left 4 Dead 2. The song was a sort of anthem for geeks and nerds at the time. When a program manager at Adobe, Mike Spiff Booth, created a music video for the song using World of Warcraft in 2007, it further popularised the song.

The song conveys the hopes of a boy in love who was rejected by a girl named Laura. He is made fun of for confessing his love and deals with his heartbreak by being optimistic about the future. It is going to be in the future soon and all of his flaws will be “engineered away”. He dreams of being a scientist who solves world hunger, teaches dolphins how to talk, and builds sentient robots. However, by the bridge of the song, he realises that even if each part of his body is replaced by technology, he’ll still feel incomplete without Laura.

- [Big Yellow Taxi](#) | **Joni Mitchell**

- “Big Yellow Taxi” was written, composed, and originally recorded by Canadian musician Joni Mitchell in 1970 as a way to talk about the environmental issues she saw in her life. She wrote the song while she was in Hawaii for a vacation. When she opened the curtains of her hotel room to see big, green, beautiful mountains in the distance, she was amazed — but when she looked down, there was only a wide and seemingly never-ending parking lot below her. The song tackles issues of deforestation, the endangerment of flora and fauna, and the adverse effects of insecticides as seen with the line: “hey farmer, farmer, put away that DDT now.” DDT was a popular insecticide that gained infamy when the book *Silent Springs* described how it was a threat to bird species and potentially causes cancer in humans. This resulted in public outcry that led the USA to ban agricultural use of DDT in 1972.

In its final verse, Mitchell talks about a “big yellow taxi” taking “his old man away”. This could be interpreted as a lover, husband, or father walking out on her and taking a taxi. Alternatively, it could be about an arrest — up until 1982, the Metro Toronto Police patrol cars were bright yellow.

- [Who I’d Be](#) | **Shrek**

- Most of us are familiar with the Shrek movies. The musical basically has the same plot. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Shrek series, you must watch it **now**. It is imperative. At this point in the musical, Shrek has rescued Fiona from the tower and Donkey entertains the question: if they could escape a murderous dragon, what else are they able to do? Of course, Shrek remains callous and ignores Donkey’s what-ifs but after much pestering, Shrek snaps and reveals that he believes there is no point in daydreaming for he’s destined to be alone: “they judge me before they even know me. That’s why I’m better off alone.”

The song is about all three character’s deepest desires: Shrek wants to be loved and accepted for who he is by others, Donkey wants companionship in a friend, and Fiona wants her fairy tale dreams to come true — essentially, they all want a happy ending. The song explores how these characters believe that their fates are

sealed and doomed. It's Shrek's "I Want" song (but really late into the musical) as it talks about how they'd like their world to change.

- **Interesting Scholar's Cup Fact:** A parody of this song was sung by the talking chair, Chairy Potter, at each Global Round of the Scholar's Cup 2019 Season.
- **When is music the right medium for representing an emergence from conflict? (~Jutin)**
 - [Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word](#) | **Elton John**
 - "Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word" is a song written by Elton John and Bernie Taupin. It was recorded by Elton John and released in 1976.

The song is a mournful ballad about a romantic relationship that is falling apart. The singer has wronged his lover and is trying to salvage whatever he can but can't seem to muster up the ability to apologise. The song reflects how difficult it can be to overcome that gut-wrenching and gritting feeling of guilt when you have to admit and own up to hurting another person. Saying sorry is one small, yet significant step to mending a mistake but is often left unsaid.

- [Symphony No. 7, 4th movement](#) | **Dmitri Shostakovich**
 - "Symphony No. 7, 4th Movement", also known as "Leningrad", was written by Russian composer and pianist, Dmitri Shostakovich in 1941 to honour Lenin but was later repurposed to commemorate the city it was first played in of the same name. It was played when Leningrad, the 2nd largest city in Russia, was besieged by Nazi German Forces in WWII, 9 August 1942. Soon, the symphony became a symbol of resistance against totalitarianism and militarism in both the West and Soviet Union while also becoming a major musical testament to the 27 million Soviets who lost their lives in World War II. It is played at the Leningrad Cemetery, where half a million victims of the 900-day siege of Leningrad rest.

The beginning of the piece is very sombre and eerie, as if something ominous and dangerous is about occur. It then transitions into the woodwinds and string instruments playing fast-paced notes after they are introduced by a horn, conveying the start of an upcoming war. The sense of urgency, threat, and severity of conflict is marked and exemplified by the drums, string, and brass in this piece. The symphony ends celebratorily as the music climaxes and hints at the end of and success of Russia's defense against the Germans.

- [1812 Overture](#) | **Pyotr Tchaikovsky**
 - "1812 Overture", also known as 'what if we added cannons to classical music?', was written by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1880. The 15 minute overture ends with a "bang", if you may, as it is best known for its climactic end with firing cannons, ringing chimes, and brass fanfare finale. Tchaikovsky was revered for composing ballets such as Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, and The Sleeping Beauty, but "1812 Overture" was made to commemorate Russia's successful defence against Napoleon's invading Grande

Armée in 1812.

In the September of 1812, Russia fought against the French Army that, at the time, seemed undefeatable. When the French conquered Borodino, west of Moscow, they (expectedly) won the upper hand against Russia and continued towards Moscow to invade it as well. The Russians retreated and the French occupied Moscow, but at a great cost. At this point the French army's resources were depleted and they had to retreat out of Russia as the cold winter rolled in. In the following weeks, the Russians took advantage of France's obstacles as the French starved, died of disease, and were barred from leaving the country. Abandoned by Napoleon in November, the Grande Armée was reduced to one-tenth of its original size by the time it reached Poland and relative safety.

- **How can the music we make today help us understand and appreciate events from the past? (~Jutin)**

- [Hugin and Munin](#) | Corvus Corax

- "Hugin and Munin" is a song by Corvus Corax, a German neo-Medieval band named after the scientific name for the common raven, who are well known for using authentic instruments. The song refers to Odin's eyes and ears — Hugin and Munin — ravens who Odin sends out every morning to gather news from around the world. Every day before breakfast the birds return to whisper what they hear and see to Odin.

The song's lyrics are largely derived from the Eddic poem, "Grímnismál" (Sayings of Grímnir), a collection of anonymous works that tell stories of the Old Norse god, Odin. The first two sections of the song are directly from Grímnismál.

- **Translation:**

- Hugin and Munin

Fly every day
Over all the world;

I worry for Hugin
That he might not return,
But I worry more for Munin

Land is holy
that I see lying
near the Asa and Alf
but in Thrundheim
will Thor dwell
until the gods will vanish

Thund rushes

The giantwolf is swimming joyful like a fish in the flood
Too sharp it seems
the flock of Val-Deads
they are wading in the stream

Odin!

- [Cloudbusting](#) | **Kate Bush**

- "Cloudbusting" is a song written, produced, and performed by British singer Kate Bush. The song takes inspiration from Peter Reich's 1973 memoir *A Book of Dreams*, which Bush read and found deeply moving. The song is a retelling of Peter's relationship with his incarcerated father and Austro-Hungarian psychoanalyst, Wilhelm Reich, in his childhood through the eyes of a mature Peter.

The song recounts Peter's memories of Wilhelm's research facility, Orgonon, where Wilhelm built the "cloud buster", a machine that aimed to harvest energy from the sky by making it rain. The lyrics also allude to Wilhelm's arrests and conviction when Wilhelm tried to sell his orgone accumulators, which he claimed could cure cancer and extend life as it gathered hypothetical universal life force, to be harvested in 1956. Almost a decade earlier, in 1947, the Food and Drug Administration injunctioned the sale of his accumulators as they believed it was "fraud[ulence] of the first magnitude". In 1957, Wilhelm died in prison due to a heart attack.

Using the mellow, dream-like vocals and cello, Bush expertly depicts Peter's experience and trauma as a child when he learns that adults, specifically his father whom he admired, weren't invisible and indeed are fallible. Peter often reminisces about his father and remembers their time together fondly, further illustrating the pain and sadness he felt when the elder Reich was taken away from him.

- [A Rumor in St. Petersburg](#) | **Anastasia**

- In 1997, an animated film about Russian princess Anastasia Romanov was released. The film can already be considered a musical but it spawned a proper stage musical adaptation in 2016. "A Rumour in St. Petersburg" is written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, and covers the living conditions of post-revolutionary Russia and how the royal family was overthrown.

At this point in the story, communism has taken over (As it well should have, glorious revolution that was), leaving people starving and miserable. They turn to their gossip, which is currently fueled by the rumour that the Grand Duchess, Anastasia, is still alive and her grandmother, the Dowager Empress, is offering a large sum to whoever can bring them back together. Con-men Dmitry and Vlad

begin devising a plan to find a girl to play the role so they can obtain the reward of 10 million rubles.

In the beginning of the song, it is revealed that it takes place in Leningrad (formerly named Petersburg), which you can relate back to “[Symphony No. 7, 4th movement](#)”, aka “Leningrad”, by Dmitri Shostakovich!

- **How different should the music for follow-ups and sequels to movies and other works be from the original? (~Jutin)**

- **Amelie ([film main theme](#)) vs. Amelie ([Broadway main theme](#))**
 - The Broadway adaptation of the critically acclaimed 2001 French film, Amélie, is not a sequel to the original but a translation. The opening themes to Amélie the Musical and Amélie are drastically different in sound, tempo, and genre. As the New York Times puts it: “Amélie the movie was très, très Français. Amélie the musical seems to have no nationality, or sensibility, to call its own.”

Jean-Pierre Jeunet’s style of directing Amélie the movie was filled with personality and his own creative freedoms — it is difficult to translate the film’s eccentricity and personality to stage. Not to mention that the movie was in an entirely different language with its own mannerisms and turns of phrase as well. Amélie the Musical’s personality may be lacklustre and very Westernised (most likely a deliberate choice to fit Broadway and West End audiences) but it still follows the same story beats and plot development as the movie. The musical and film follows Amélie, a shy and quiet waitress from an eccentric family background who aims to be a kind stranger, in the hopes of love of her own.

- “[Bladelight](#)” | [Blake Robinson](#)
 - This is the iconic opening theme song to Star Wars by John Williams, “Fanfare and Prologue”, re-imagined by Blake Robinson in November 2019 for the trailer for Star Wars: the Rise of Skywalker. Robinson’s version follows the same melody but is more grandiose and orchestra-like, unlike Williams’ version that is more like a marching band. The slower tempo, lack of a snare drum, and increased cymbals make Robinson’s rendition more dramatic and monumental; it’s as if the song is marking the end of an era or the beginning of something awe-inspiring.
- **How can music act as a bridge connecting the old and the new? (~Blaithan)**
 - [New World Symphony, 3rd movement](#) | **Antonin Dvorak**
 - The “New World Symphony” was composed in 1893 by Antonín Dvořák and is regarded as one of his most popular symphonies. The third movement of this piece (molto vivace) was “suggested by the scene at the feast in Hiawatha where the Indians dance” as Dvořák said in an article published by the New York Herald when talking about how Native American music influenced his symphony. As well as this, legend has it that Neil Armstrong played the New World Symphony as he stepped out onto the moon. If this is true, then Dvořák

would have been one of the only composers to have their own music accompany humanity as they explore space further and take one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.

- [Qaumajuapik](#) | Riit

- Riit grew up in Paniqtuuq in the Nunavut province of Canada where her main language, like many others in the province, was Inuktitut, the Inuit's language. Her song "Qaumajuapik" was released in 2019, featuring Riit showing off her throat-singing abilities alongside a synthesizer. "Qaumajuapik" (meaning "you are shining") is an Inuktitut love song that was inspired by her experience touring in Australia. She broke up with her boyfriend due to his negative effect on her wellbeing but was still heartbroken. Because of this, her band convinced her to set up a Tinder account where she met another man.

This song, along with the rest of her album, is almost entirely in Inuktitut, with the exception of occasional lines sung by guest vocalists. She aims to motivate younger generations to keep speaking their language or regain it if they have forgotten — it currently has around 30,000 native speakers but that number is steadily declining. She and her band, The Jerry Cans, are both advocates for the language and hope that one day it is the main dialect of the Nunavut province.

- [Auld Lang Syne](#) | Folk song

- Ahh yes, "Auld Lang Syne". If your family is anything like mine, you're used to dancing around in a giant circle when the clock strikes 12:00 on New Year's with it playing in the background. "Auld Lang Syne" is a Scottish Gaelic poem written by Robert Burns in 1788, and roughly translates to "For Old Times' Sake". The song is about looking back over the year that has passed and thinking about the friendships you've made and the people you've held on to. Often, a new year brings changes and new goals that people set for themselves. This song reminds everyone not to forget about everything they've done in the previous year and to remember all of the people that have made them who they are today.

Concluding Questions and Examples (Xavier and Jutin)

- Research the photography of [Julia Margaret Cameron](#) and consider: was she truly making mistakes if she was doing so on purpose and with artistic intent? Discuss with your team: when, if ever, can errors make art more valuable?

- Julia Margaret Cameron was one of the first major female photographers in the UK. During the Victorian Era, her photos were very well known, but not necessarily in a positive way — they were regularly full of errors, such as a lack of focus on the subject, as well as splotches and swirls on the photo due to uneven application of chemicals. Most photographers at the time believed that photography was more of a science than an art, as it was based around the cold, perfect rendering of a subject, and therefore despised the mistakes that were found within Cameron's photos. It is unknown if Cameron purposefully took blurred photos when she first began, but it is evident that she

started incorporating mistakes into her art style, such as scratching an area out to make it black, or leaving in the hand of an assistant holding up a blanket within the photo. Mistakes are defined as ‘an action that is misguided or wrong’ — however, as she had artistic intent behind them and was aiming for this to be correct, then these are not mistakes: more accurately, they are experiments in the art form of photography.

Errors are able to make things more valuable all the time! The main reason for this is that an error in something makes it unique. Although they don’t directly relate to art, Pokémon Cards (and other trading cards) perfectly address this. Misprinted cards, with incorrect serial numbers, text, or art are often worth much more than their normal counterparts, simply due to how uncommon they are. Within art, because most pieces are already unique, this doesn’t happen as often. However, when multiple prints of a particular artwork are produced (for example), an error in one may make it stand out from the rest, and therefore be more valuable.

- **Every season audience can attend new musicals (though some are adapted from existing books, films, or plotless rock albums) as well as [revivals](#) of musicals from years past.**

Discuss with your team: are there any movies released in 2018 or 2019 that you believe would make good musicals?

- Reviving a Broadway show is an incredibly complicated process, involving the consultation of licensing houses. These large organisations are responsible for managing any production of shows by a particular playwright(s). Sometimes, to obtain permission to do a revival, consultation must be done with the playwright (such as with Andrew Lloyd Webber). Once this is done, consultation must still be made with the playwright/licensing house if any changes wish to be made to the script! This does sound like a rather restrictive process, but for those whose passion involves Broadway Revivals, the effort is worth it.

Despite my desire to see Avengers: Endgame the Musical, I feel that this may not be the best idea (though hearing 20 ‘I am the hero’ numbers would be incredibly entertaining). One movie that I would love to see as a musical is Isle of Dogs, a stop motion animation film by Wes Anderson. Again, there would be many technical difficulties, particularly surrounding how to convey Wes Anderson’s directorial style on stage, but if you could replicate it, it would be truly beautiful. What we must also remember is that many popular films are already musicals, at least in part. Having Rocketman as a Broadway Musical would be amazing, and would put Elton John up there with Queen and ABBA in terms of having musicals with their music. Often, adapting movies into musicals is incredibly difficult (see Amélie and how it didn’t live up to the film’s identity), and it may be better if people create new ideas instead. However, there have been some notable success from adapting films into musicals, as seen with the School of Rock, Beetlejuice, and The Lion King.

If we had to give an example that could work, I’d highly suggest How to Train Your

Dragon. It has the same beats and breaks as a typical musical and the behind the scenes can be very creative with adapting the dragons onto the stage. Maybe some sort of puppeteering or mechanical aspect can be incorporated!

- **New music is constantly being made, so [why do there seem to be so few new Christmas songs?](#)**
 - The issue is not that there are no new Christmas songs, it's that new Christmas songs are rarely added to the musical canon. Artists such as Aloe Blacc are releasing Christmas music even now, but the issue is that it doesn't catch on. Because there are already so many Christmas songs (and so many well known and classic Christmas songs) it requires a truly extraordinary song to enter these lists of amazing Christmas songs. Many people consider the last song to do this was "All I Want For Christmas Is You", which is now 25 years old. It is unknown what force continues to propel it to the top of the charts, but what is more concerning is how no new songs are being added. In my opinion, as songs become less well known and drop out of the Christmas Canon, newer songs simply replace them. Most of the time popularising Christmas songs is entirely within the context of the culture at the time; it's less about which songs are objectively the best but more of which songs get repeatedly played in public spaces.
- **Should we aim to recreate [lost music](#)? How about lost Dr. Who episodes?**
 - The above article describes a piece, or namely pieces, of lost music, being the score of Franco Zeffirelli's film adaptation of Romeo and Juliet. The sheet music to this was lost, and therefore no performances of it have ever been truly done. However, James Fitzpatrick and Nic Raine constructed it by ear and incorporated Renaissance music elements so that it was more representative of the play's period. The Prague Philharmonic Orchestra performed Raine's and Fitzpatrick's work. Recreating this lost music is crucial, as it is part of our history, despite how inconsequential it may seem.

Because of this, recreating lost Doctor Who episodes is just as important (though I may be quite biased, as a Whovian). Doctor Who's missing episodes are still a part of the Dr Who Canon, just as lost music is part of both the musical canon as a whole. The recreation of these may seem useless, and even rude to the original creator, but it is still important to preserve these works.

- **Some groups change performers and continue to find success; musicals that run long enough do this by design, as when creator Lin-Manuel Miranda stepped away from Hamilton. At Yale University, one acappella group, the Whiffenpoofs, replaces its entire lineup with new recruits each year (including, recently, their [first non-male performer](#)). Is a musical group really still the same group after switching some or all of its members? How about an orchestra, or a global round stage team, or a sports franchise?**
 - This is a lovely philosophical question, relating back to a thought experiment known as the Ship of Theseus. The thought experiment says that the legendary ship of Theseus was kept in a harbour as a museum piece. Over time, some parts of the ship began to rot and were replaced with new parts. Eventually, every part of the ship was replaced. Can it still be considered the ship of Theseus? At its core, this question about replacing

members of a musical group is asking whether the important thing is the artists or the feeling of a group. For example, if a band always performed the same songs, and then changed bass guitarist, there wouldn't be a large difference unless the band members' faces and personality are integral to the brand of the group. Panic! At the Disco had all members resign except for the lead singer, which is usually the face of the band. For an orchestra, this argument can be repeated. However, for things such as global round stage teams, or sports franchises, the question becomes more complicated, as the individual is often more important. In the end, the group isn't the same, but the core of the group is. The performance stays very similar or it adapts as the old group evolves into a new group.

- **Along the same lines, consider disbanded groups—from ABBA to the Backstreet Boys—that get back together many years later for reunion tours. Are such reunions only authentic [if the same members are performing](#)? In the case of ABBA, the band [opted for CGI](#) to look more like their younger selves—is this an unnecessary deception or a case of honoring an audience's nostalgia?**
 - In the modern day, as bands do reunion tours, often not all of the members are performing. After members have left the band, died, or suffered an injury that results in them being unable to perform, they are usually replaced. However, when groups come back together for reunion tours, the spirit of the band is what matters. Long time fans go to these concerts because they wish to see some members of the band, or to hear personally significant songs live. Also, when some band members are unable to perform, generally musicians with some form of connection to the band end up performing, resulting in the feeling of authenticity being maintained. Of course, the performance will not be exactly the same, but that isn't what people expect when they go to a reunion tour for a band with missing members.

The main issue with ABBA using the CGI past selves is that they don't have the presence on stage if they aren't there, and they're unable to truly interact with the audience. The main reason that they did this, however, was because they wished that these performances would feel like the old ones, and this seemed like the easiest way to do so, keeping the performance "authentic".

- **Consider the musical *Martin Guerre*—from the makers of *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*—which was radically reworked after a widely-lampooned first run. Old songs were discarded, new ones written, and others updated—as when [When Will Someone Hear](#) became [How Many Tears](#). Discuss with your team: were the changes effective, and should more songs be updated after their first release in response to audience reactions? How about movies, books, and subject outlines?**
 - The *Martin Guerre* musical debuted on the West End in 1996. It was six years in the making and the production was supposed to be spectacular, but it only received mixed reviews upon release. It didn't live up to its predecessors and its reviews incentivised producers to rework the entire musical. New scenes and songs were added, they shortened the first act, gave a happier ending, and shifted the focus from *Guerre* to his

bride, Bertrande. The revised 1996 version gained more positive critical response and won the 1997 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Musical and Best Choreography.

However, the libretto — the lyrics — was further reworked two years later as various songs were added, the original songs were retitled, moved around, and/or lyrically rewritten. Overall, it was shortened to make it more intimate and less grandiose, unlike the producer's bigger hits, *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*.

The musical cost \$6 million to produce and if the creative team didn't make the decision to change it in response to critics, it wouldn't have been financially ideal not only for the people who wrote the musical but the actors who play the characters, the technical team, and even the staff that worked in the theatre as well.

When the piece of work is subpar, inappropriate, or inadequate for the money viewers spend, there is no reason why it shouldn't be reworked or rewritten by the original authors. Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Cats* was adapted for the big screen in 2019. The score was edited to make it a tad more modern, but not so much so that it lost its original identity. A song was even added to fit modern audiences' tastes, not just musical fans'. The song is very obviously not part of the original score though; it sounds entirely as if it is from a different genre. These pitfalls need to be kept in mind when reworking a score for different audiences. The *Aladdin* remake is a good example of what one should not do to already good music! It was synthesised and autotuned — no, mutilated — 'til it no longer had the integrity and heart that made the original so memorable and iconic.

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