🎨 The Art of Music: A Creative Challenge - Presented by Orchestra Omaha

Submission Deadline: Saturday, October 10, 2026

Dear Omaha-area Art Educators, Classroom Teachers, and Parents,

Orchestra Omaha is thrilled to invite your K–12 students to participate in **The Art of Music**, an exciting city-wide collaboration that merges live symphonic performance with youth visual arts. This project challenges students to explore the intersection of sight and sound. We ask students to listen to an evocative piece of music from our upcoming concert repertoire, let their imaginations run wild, and create an original 2D artwork capturing what they hear.

High-quality digital scans and photographs of student artwork will be collected, and a curated selection will be professionally projected above the orchestra during our free, live **concert at 7:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2026, at Omaha Conservatory of Music**. Each piece featured will be labeled with the artist's first name, the first initial of their last name, grade level, and school name (e.g., *Leonard C. — 4th Grade — Belleaire Elementary*).

📋 **Artwork Submission Rules.** To ensure fairness and technical compatibility with our theater projection system, all entries must follow these strict guidelines:

- **Eligible Students:** Any K–12 student living or attending school in the greater Omaha area (including public, private, charter, and homeschool students) – only 1 submission per student.
- **Allowed Mediums:** Any flat, two-dimensional medium is accepted, including watercolor, acrylic, colored pencil, charcoal, marker, oil pastel, digital art, or flat paper collage. *No 3D projects or heavily textured relief work.*
- **Orientation: Landscape orientation (horizontal)** is highly recommended. Vertical artwork will be accepted, but horizontal formats are preferred.
- **Originality:** Artwork must be completely original. Submissions featuring copyrighted characters, pop culture icons, or corporate logos will be disqualified.

🎧 Classroom & Homeschool Activity Guide

Step 1: Listen & Brainstorm. Gather your students or children, hand them a blank piece of paper, and play our **Featured Piece: *Night at Bald Mountain***

Step 2: Use Guided Prompts to Spark Ideas. Use these prompts to get their creative gears turning:

- **Colors:** *Close your eyes for the first minute. What colors pop into your head? Are they bright, warm, and explosive, or cool, dark, and smooth?*
- **Story:** *If this music accompanied a movie, what would be happening on screen? Is a hero embarking on a journey, a storm rolling into Omaha, or animals dancing in a forest?*

- **Textures:** *Does the music feel smooth like glass, sharp and jagged like lightning, or soft and fluffy like a cloud? How can you show that texture with your brush or pencil?*

📲 How to Submit Artwork

1. Capture the Artwork. Take a clean, high-resolution digital photograph or a 300 DPI color flatbed scan of the finished artwork.

Photo Tip: Line up the camera directly over the artwork so it is not tilted. Take the photo in a bright room with natural daylight to avoid yellow indoor lighting or heavy shadows from your phone.

2. Standardize the File Name. To ensure no student's artwork gets lost or miscredited, you **must** rename the image file using this exact structure before uploading:

- Grade_ FirstName_ LastNameInitial_SchoolName.jpg
- *Example for a 4th grader:* 04_Leonard_C_Bellevue Elementary.jpg
- *Example for a homeschooled 11th grader:* 11_Sarah_S_Homeschool.png

3. Complete the Online Portal. Visit our secure submission form to upload the image file and fill out the student details.

Art Teachers: https://forms.gle/ZH3MJcinvzCsDDtd7

Note: If you are a teacher submitting artwork, you will need: a spreadsheet (e.g., Excel, Google Sheets) containing required information for all students (i.e., First name, First initial of last name, School Name, School District); high quality photograph or scan of each artwork submission (JPEG or PNG format) saved using our standard naming format; and scanned copies of legible, signed The Art of Music Parent Permission Forms for each student. Additional instructions are provided on the form.

Parents: https://forms.gle/Qea13rscjpoygknr9

📩 **Contact & Support.** We are incredibly excited to showcase the visual masterpieces of Omaha's youth alongside our live performance. Thank you for championing arts education in our community! For questions regarding guidelines or technical troubleshooting, please reach out to:

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