

**Ecphrastic poetry & the
development of professional
literacy in music**

What is ecphrastic poetry?

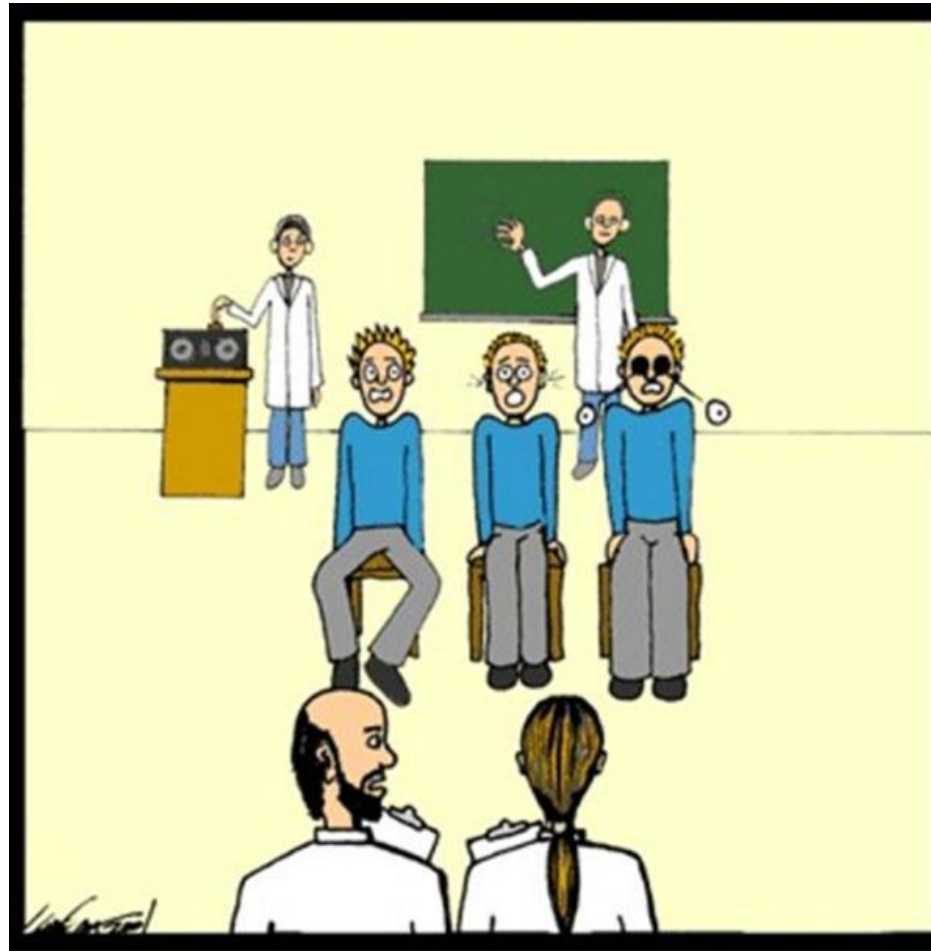
- Ecphrastic poetry is the conversation between two pieces of art. The writer interprets a work of visual art and then creates a narrative in verse form that represents his or her reaction to that painting, photograph, sculpture or other artistic creation.

<http://www.firkinfiction.com/11.html>

Ecphrastic poetry and music

- How do you write a music-related poem in an ecphrastic manner?
- Complete the following steps:
 1. View a stimulus image and identify a music-related concept it evokes.
 2. If required, write down the concept, definition, law, formula etc.
 3. Identify a suitable poetry type and write the poem.

What concept does this image evoke?



I cannot determine from these tests which is more irritating, Celine Dion's singing or fingernails being dragged across a chalkboard.

Intonation

Example Haiku poem

Bad intonation

Strings are sharp and reeds are flat

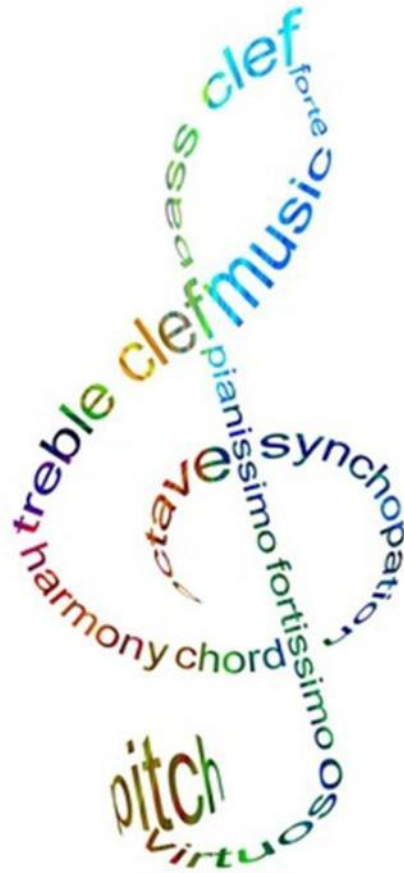
Brass, too loud again

What concept does this image evoke?



Musical terminology

Example Concrete poem



What concept does this image evoke?



Beethoven

Example Acrostic poem

Born in Bonn in 1770

Established career in Vienna

Emperor piano concerto premiered in Vienna

Taught a few students music

Hearing loss suffered around 1796

Oral or written resposes to frineds

Violin concerto was written during the 'Middle Period'

Eight Symphony caused apogee with contemporary music

Never've married amd died during a thunder storm

What concept does this image evoke?



An orchestral conductor

Example Limerick poem

The opera opened with flair,
as the maestro wowed everyone there,
no baton was flayed
as the orchestra played,
he led it by swinging his hair!

What concept does this image evoke?



The magic of music

Example Free Verse poem

Across the dimly lighted room
The violin drew wefts of sound,
Airily they wove and wound
And glimmered gold against the gloom.

I watched the music turn to light,
But at the pausing of the bow,
The web was broken and the glow
Was drowned within the wave of night.

What concept does this image evoke?



Types of musical instruments

Example Cinquain poem

Trumpets,
throats stretching bout,
cheeks bulging, muscle clout,
puckered lips, blowing in and out,
Music!

Example Cinquain poem

Guitars,
strings vibratin',
blues, country, rockin' scene,
fingers, thumbs, pluckin' and strummin'
Music!

Example Cinquain poem

Organs,
tango, jazzy,
make your choice, ranging free,
sounds that blend simultaneously
Music!

Example Cinquain poem

Cymbals,
slide, scrape, clash, crash,
up and down, rhythmic hands,
thin, steely round plates, swishing bands,
Music!

Example Cinquain poem

Pianos,
strings strike keyboards,
hammers hit diverse chords,
incredible pitch echoes loud,
Music!

Example Cinquain poem

Bugles,
keys few, pitch small,
taps - announcing death toll,
military dawn wake-up call,
Music!

Activity

Using the given stimulus material, create the following types of poetry:

- Free verse
- Acrostic
- Cinquain
- Haiku
- Limerick

STIMULUS IMAGE 1



STIMULUS IMAGE 2



STIMULUS IMAGE 3



STIMULUS IMAGE 4



STIMULUS IMAGE 5

