

Animation and Elemental Music

A workshop/presentation by James Harding for the AOSA Virtual Symposium
November 13th and 14th, 2020

“Animation is not the art of drawings-that-move, but rather the art of movements-that-are-drawn.”

- Norman McClaren, pioneering Canadian animator

Out of movement, music; out of music, movement!” – Dorothee Günther

In this workshop, I will present several animation projects with students at the San Francisco School where movements on screen accompany music. Sometimes the images were inspired by the music and become a way to extend and enhance the musical work of the students. Sometimes the images inspire musical work by the students.

While the majority of these projects have taken place during more traditional, in-school learning

TECHNIQUES:

Stop-motion animation: A series of images are taken with a camera and then played quickly in succession to form movement. Apps I have used for this are: iStopMotion (for ipad), Stopmotion and Stopmotion Studio (for ipad).

Cell animation: A series of images are drawn on a series of slides, and viewed in rapid succession. App: Flip-a-clip for iPad

Shadow film: combining shadow movement with animation

Projects (I will share some of these):

After Hours- 7th Grade students animate desk items to two dances from Swan Lake.

Petrouchka- 7th Grade students animate a magnetic silhouette to original episodes to a theme by Stravinsky

Flip-books at an Exhibition- 7th Grade students create compositions inspired by animated flip books, using motifs from Mussorgsky’s “Promenade Theme”

Los Esqueletos- 5th Graders animate paper skeletons to create episodes for a traditional Spanish chant relating to “Dia de los Muertos”

The Crooked Man- A 2nd grade composition is illustrated with moving tangrams

Full Fathom Five- 8th Graders' animation of white board drawings accompany their original composition to these lyrics by Shakespeare

Moon Shadows- Simple animations of Chinese shadow puppets by 5th graders accompany an ensemble arrangement of a Taiwanese song.

Keetman “Allegro for two Xylophones” – 8th Grade students animate to a dynamic piece from Spielbuch für Xylophon #3 using finger paints and colorforms.

Flight of the Bumblebee – Animations by 7th graders, edited together in imovie by a student.

Mechanical Episodes- 7th Graders animate collections of metal bits and pieces into ostinato machines, accompanying compositions inspired by the composition “Palladio” by Karl Jenkins.

The Ballet of the Chickens in their Shells- Abstract and representational animations by 7th graders to Mussorgsky's lively music from “Pictures at an Exhibition.”

Fire Dance- Middle School students move to animated images of fire to Manuel de Falla's “Ritual Fire Music.”

At the workshop, I will give links to these examples.

Thanks for attending the Virtual Symposium!

You can contact me at jharding@sfschool.org if you have any questions.

Yours, James