Russian-born painter Wassily Kandinsky is thought of as one of the first abstract artists. He had an ability called “synesthesia.” He could “hear” the sound that colors make. He believed that shapes and forms also had their own “inner sound” that could inspire the viewer to feel strong emotions just by looking at the painting.

Today, we’re inspired by Kandinsky’s, “Composition VIII.” What do you think Kandinsky was feeling when he created this painting? If this painting had a sound, what kind of music would it be like?

You’re about to create a triptych inspired by music. A triptych is a group of 3 artworks that are meant to be shown together.

**MATERIALS**
- 3 pieces of white paper
- Sharpie
- Something to color with (paint, markers, crayons)
- Tape

**STEP 1:**
Choose 3 different styles of music. Listen to the 1st. What shapes and forms does the music inspire? Do you hear sharp lines? Curvy shapes?

**STEP 2:**
Use your black marker to draw the sounds you hear. It can help to pretend to hold a paintbrush and move to the music before you draw.

**STEP 3:**
Use warm or cool colors to add emotion to your painting.

**STEP 4:**
Repeat steps 1, 2 and 3 for each song you’ve chosen.

**STEP 5:**
Once your paintings are done and dry, arrange them as you like. (Flip them, change the order, etc.)

**STEP 6:**
When you’ve decided on the order, flip the paintings over and tape them together on the back. Your musical triptych is done!

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