

# picture the music

Presented by  
St. Louis Symphony  
Volunteer Association

Metro St. Louis Population  
**2.6 million**

Orchestra Size  
**Group 1**

Students Served by SLSO  
Education Programs  
**250,000+**

Students Served by PTM  
**16,000+**

PTM Committee Volunteers  
**59**

Annual PTM Volunteer Hours  
**345+**

**Picture the Music** (PTM) is a free hands-on classroom activity and competition that invites students in grades K-6 to create artwork inspired by a specific orchestral work. As students listen to the music, they respond with a painting or drawing that expresses creative thought and emotion inspired by the music. Teachers submit the top seven works of art from their school to enter the competition. A panel of experts in visual arts and art education review the submitted artwork and select the top 100 works. These student artists are honored at an award ceremony and their art is displayed in a traveling exhibit.

## Goals

- Support the SLSO's mission
- Expose students to the SLSO and orchestral music
- Inspire students to think creatively, make connections, and express their emotions

## Team

- PTM volunteers
- SLSO staff
- Art and music educators

## Timeline

### June – August

- Select music
- Schedule volunteer kickoff, online submission, art intake, judging, framing, award ceremony, traveling exhibit, and artwork return
- Create Teacher Guide
- Setup online submission platform
- Market program

### August – January

- Host volunteer kickoff meeting
- Recruit judges
- Confirm traveling exhibit locations
- Recruit awards ceremony host
- Students create works of art in their classrooms

### January – March

- Teachers select up to seven works of art to submit to the competition
- Setup judging platform
- Host virtual judging weekend
- Notify teachers
- Collect the top 100 works of art by drop off or mail
- Send award ceremony invitations
- Purchase awards and prepare certificates
- Prepare and frame artwork for exhibition



### March – May

- Host awards ceremony
- Host traveling exhibition
- Unframe artwork after traveling exhibition
- Return artwork to teachers
- Collect and analyze data
- Send thank you notes

## Volunteer Engagement

### Marketing Support

Volunteers maintain a database of art teachers and serve as program ambassadors.

### Volunteer Coordination

PTM Chair and Co-Chair host a kickoff meeting and manage all volunteer-related activity for PTM.



*Rainbow and Then Dots* by Jayla Rivers, Kindergarten, Patrick Henry Downtown Academy

### Artwork Collection and Framing Day

Volunteers coordinate the collection of the top 100 pieces of artwork. They also prepare and frame the artwork for the awards ceremony and traveling exhibit. This includes getting the frames from storage, cleaning the frames, trimming the artwork to fit the frames, framing the artwork, and creating a diagram for the artwork display.

### Awards Ceremony

Before the awards ceremony, volunteers assemble the art exhibit, set up the check-in tables, reserve seats, and prepare awards. At the awards ceremony volunteers check in the young artists, lead them to and from the stage, welcome the audience, present awards, and provide photography support. During the awards ceremony, volunteers also attach ribbons to artwork that receives special recognition.

### Traveling Exhibit

Volunteers transport, assemble, and disassemble the PTM exhibit at each venue.

### Returning Artwork

Volunteers unframe the artwork and return it to teachers during artwork pickup days or by mail.

### Thank You Notes

Volunteers write thank you notes to judges and community partners to show our gratitude.

## Partnerships

- Saint Louis Art Museum
- Other local cultural institutions depending on that year's musical selection
- Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis

## Impact

For more than 30 years, PTM has remained one of the most popular programs amongst SVA members. Many volunteers have been participating for several years and new members are eager to join the committee each year.

PTM provides an opportunity to showcase students' imagination and creativity, to make meaningful and relevant connections to orchestral music, and to express their emotions. It inspires students to make music a part of their lives.

## For more information

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“My students enjoy participating in Picture the Music and learning how to visually interpret music.”

– David S., art teacher,  
Buder Elementary School



St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra

Stéphane Denève : Music Director

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