



The project on the next page goes along with the book *Because* written by Mo Willems and illustrated by Amber Ren.

If you don't have this book, click [here](#) to listen to the book read aloud by a member of The Ringling's Education Staff!

This story shows what is known as the domino effect. One small moment leads to another and ends up changing lives through the power of music. The story follows a little girl who grows up to write her own beautiful music because she gets a last minute chance to watch an orchestra perform. We like this book because it reminds us that you never know how one small moment can change a life.

For the art activity on the next page, we'll be listening to music and creating our own artwork based on what we hear.



Bartolomeo Bettera (Italian, 1639 - after 1688), *Still Life with Musical Instruments*, ca. 1660s. Oil on canvas, 45 1/4 x 57 x 2 in. Gift of A. Everett Austin, Jr., 1951. SN658

## MUSEUM CONNECTION

This activity was inspired the painting *Still Life with Musical Instruments* by Bartolomeo Bettera.

A **still life** is a type of painting that shows a group of objects. The group of objects chosen by Bettera for this painting are all musical instruments! What

instruments do you see? Are any of them also shown in the book? Sheet music, much like the ones in story, is spread across tables and instrument cases throughout the painting. After taking a good look at the still life, what kind of music do you think the musicians were practicing?

## EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS:

I.C.1

I.C.2

IV.A.1

IV.A.2

IV.A.3

IV.F.1

IV.F.2

IV.F.3

IV.F.4

VIII.A.1

VIII.B.1

VIII.B.2

VIII.E.1

VIII.E.2

# ACTIVITY

## BECAUSE

**MATERIALS:**  
MUSIC, PAPER, ANY ART SUPPLIES YOU HAVE

DIFFICULTY LEVEL:  
**SIMPLE**



Happy Upbeat Song



Loud Rock Song



Slow Love Song



Calm Acoustic Song

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Start by picking one of your favorite songs. Let that song play and really listen to the music. How does it make you feel? What type of art would you create to show those feelings?
2. Grab whatever art supplies you think best fit the song you chose. Maybe a sad, slow song needs paint while a happy, upbeat song needs stickers! Choose your art supplies because of the song.
3. Listen to the song a few times through and as you do, start making art! You can draw how it makes you feel, paint a realistic scene that matches the lyrics, make a mark for all the different notes you hear, or whatever you want to do! Just make sure your art looks the way it does because of the song you were listening to!

## WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOU CREATE!

Click [here](#) to share your masterpiece on our Family Programs Facebook Group!

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