



Allen Memorial
Art Museum

Family Self-Guide: Music

If you enjoy both music and art, you're sure to love this tour. Come walk with us and listen to the rhythmic stylings of the museum!



NORD GALLERY

*Let's start off with some classical music and take a look at **The Fountain of Life***

Painted in bright colors and depicting rich fabrics, elaborate structures, and angelic musicians, this work suggests a celebration or royal ceremony. Beneath a group of heavenly thrones seating Jesus, Mary, and John the Evangelist, is a realm of angels playing instruments from the early Renaissance: the viol, organ, tromba marina, psaltery, harp, and lute. The tromba marina, the most unusual instrument of the group, is an ancestor of the modern day trumpet. The remaining angels gather in eaves and appear to be sing joyfully from prayer books.

WILLARD-NEWELL GALLERY

*For a more relaxing work, perhaps a better choice is **Mercury Putting Argus to Sleep***

In Greek mythology, Jupiter takes the form of a cloud and seduces the young maiden Io. Jupiter's jealous wife—the goddess Hera—catches him in the act and insists he give Io up. When Jupiter changes Io into a white cow to protect her, Hera demands the cow as a pet and places it under the watch of the giant Argus. Jupiter enlists the help of Mercury in rescuing Io. Disguised as a shepherd, Mercury sits down with Argus and begins to play his flute. As the song lulls Argus into a permanent slumber, Io is able to escape.





KING SCULPTURE COURT

To see something that actually makes sound, be sure to stop by our large bronze bell.

While not the easiest of instruments to play (weighing in at more than 600 pounds!), this enormous bronze bell certainly is a conversation piece. It was made for the Temple of Great Mercy in the city of Hangzhou, China, where it called Buddhists to prayer. Like most traditional Chinese bells, it does not have a clapper; to ring it, the exterior surface has to be struck with a mallet. After the temple was taken down, the bell was donated to Oberlin College by an alumnus who hoped it would be rung during class reunions.

STERN GALLERY EAST

March to the beat of a different drummer as you consider our very abstract Kettledrum Organ

Paul Klee is no stranger to music, having come from a very musically inclined family. His father was an organist, his mother was a singer and both parents taught music. Klee himself played the violin in an orchestra, so it is no surprise that his art explored music a great deal. During his last year teaching at the Bauhaus school in Dessau, Klee made this painting of a kettledrum organ. Although the two drumsticks topped with red and black balls and a wind-up handle help to identify the title instrument, the artist also used abstract shapes and shifting planes of light and color to represent the sound of music in this work.



STERN GALLERY EAST

Art and music complement one another nicely in the painting Harmonizing

Using art as therapy for a wartime injury, Horace Pippin would paint by using his left hand to hold his right wrist, allowing his right hand to manipulate the brush. This strict control is evident in the use of strong vertical and horizontal lines in his work. While Pippin painted a number of subjects on abolitionism and the war, most



of the subjects he painted were of everyday life in his hometown of West Chester, Pennsylvania. The street corner on which this barbershop quartet is busking was only a couple of blocks from the artist's home.