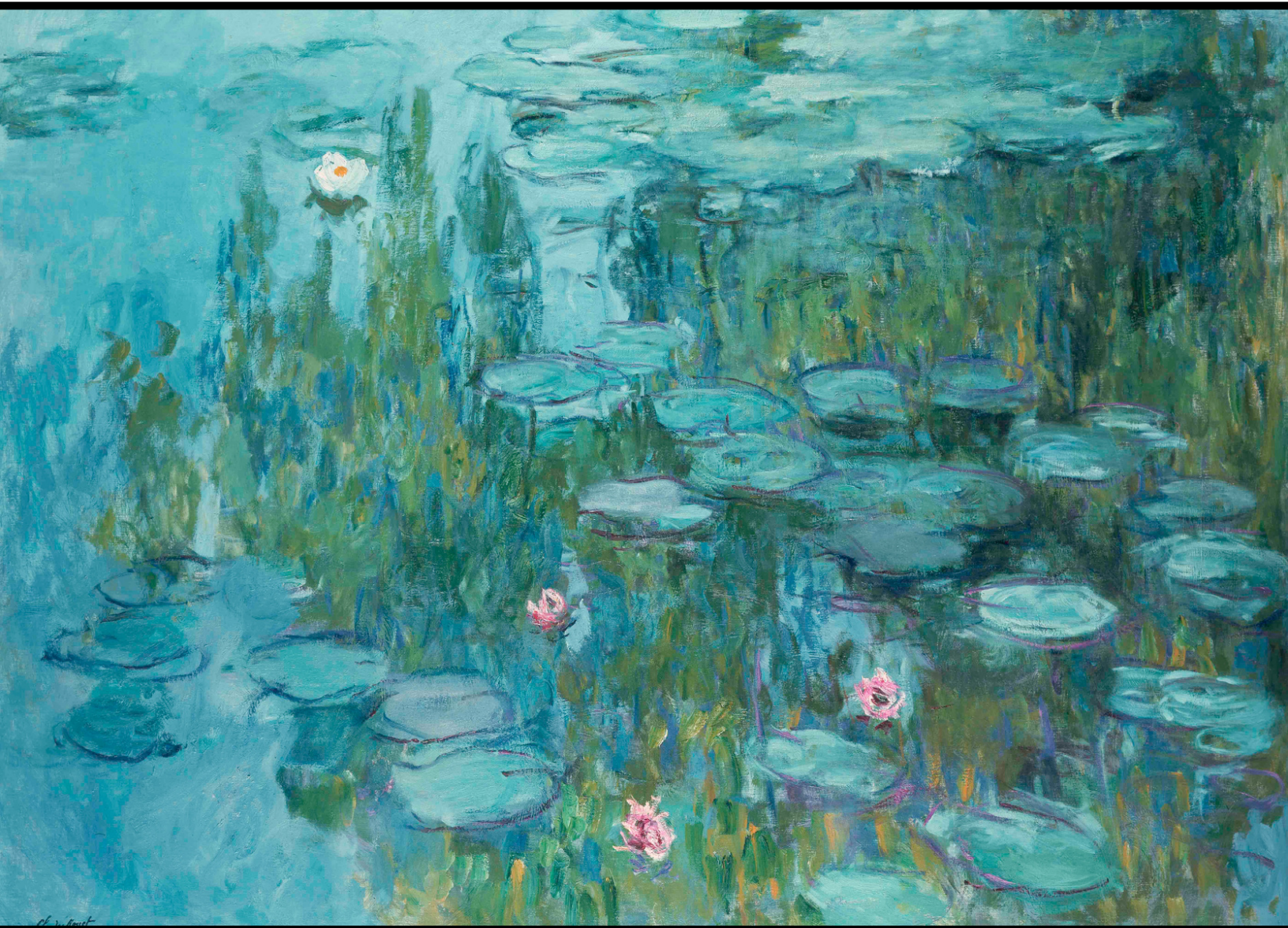


THE  
*Ultimate*  
**Fine Arts Friday**  
IMPRESSIONISM WORKSHOP



PRESENTED BY:

**The Masterpiece Society & Music in Our Homeschool**

# Welcome!



Alisha Gratehouse is an artist and veteran homeschool mom of 3 who teaches at the Masterpiece Society.



Gena Mayo is a veteran homeschool mom of 8 and a music teacher of over 25 years. She teaches at Music in Our Homeschool.



We are Alisha and Gena, and we absolutely LOVE helping homeschool moms nurture creativity and instill a love of art and music in their children.

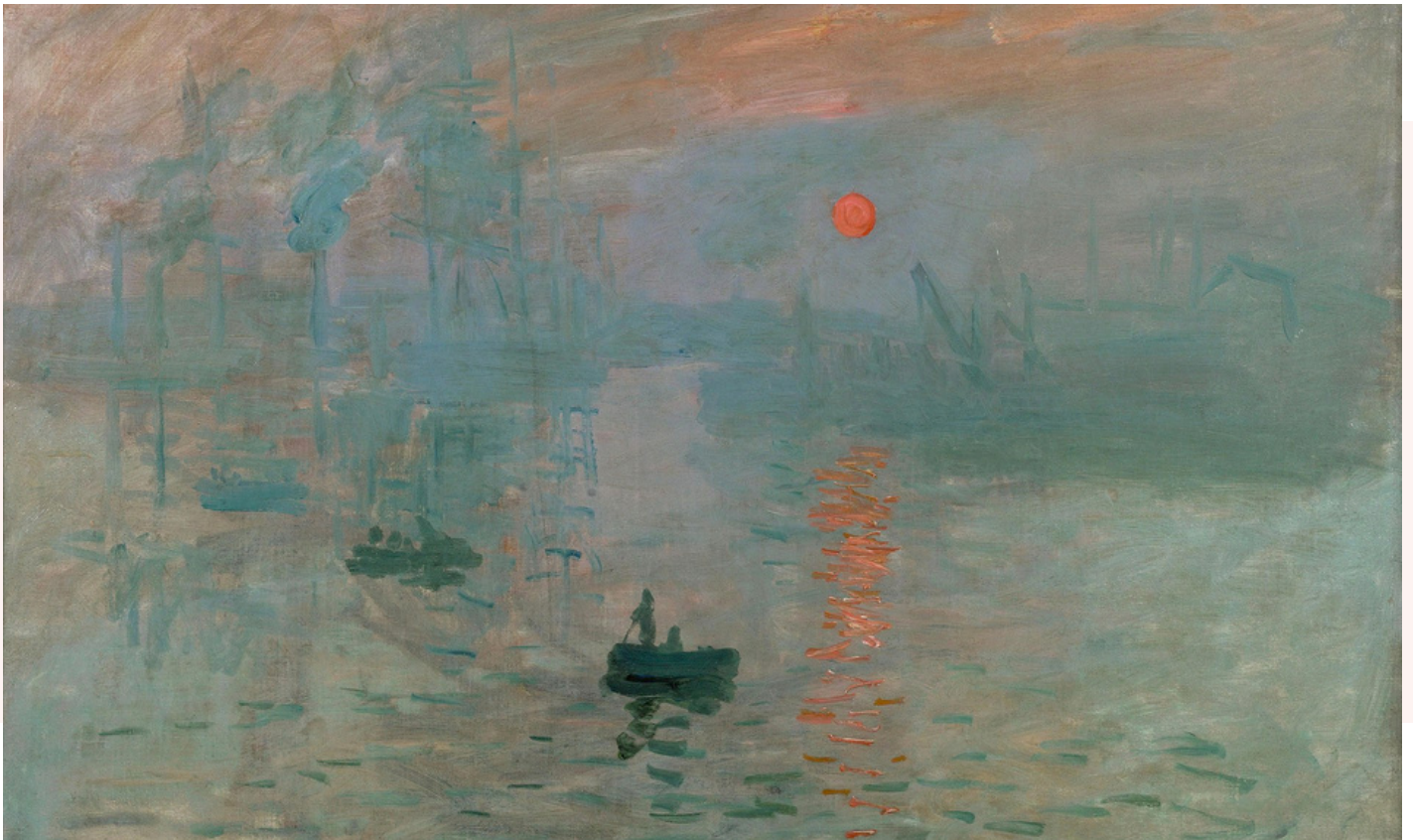
We have created this "Ultimate Fine Arts Friday" hands-on workshop for you and your kids. Not only will you explore the *Impressionism Era* in art and music, but you'll experience it too!

Gena will teach you how to "feel" and "express" Impressionism in the music of that era, then Alisha will guide you in recreating an Impressionist work of art!

# Introduction

Do you think Claude Monet had any idea of the enormous impact he was making on the future of art as he glopped paint in short, quick brushstrokes onto the canvas while creating this seascape?

Probably not. But this painting (and others) would start a revolution in art, music, poetry and more. The ramifications of which are still being felt today.



*Impression, Sunrise* by Claude Monet, 1872

# Impression, Sunrise

One morning, in 1872, as the sun was coming up, Claude Monet leapt out of bed to capture the moment. The sun was his muse, and he wanted to paint it as he was seeing it.

The light was continuously changing – each tiny degree, all the shifting tones of color, and it was a race against time. To capture the moment, *in the moment*, that became his challenge!

He had to work quickly. The sun was rapidly rising over the harbor. And we all know that it wasn't going to stop there and “pose” for him! So, using the *tache* and *impasto* techniques, he was able to capture his “impression” of the dawn.

So, why is this painting the one that is responsible for “Impressionism?”

In 1874, when a group of thirty artists, held their own art exhibition, they called it, “The Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers.” Catchy, huh? Each artist contributed several pieces of their work to show (and hopefully, sell).

This painting was one of the pieces contributed by Claude Monet. When asked for the title of the painting to include in the display, Monet flippantly answered, “Impression, Sunrise,” and thus it was named.

After seeing this seascape, along with its title, *Impression, Sunrise*, journalist and art critic, Louis Leroy, criticized it in a newspaper article by saying, "Impression, I was certain of it. I was just telling myself that, since I was impressed, there had to be some impression in it — and what freedom, what ease of workmanship! Wallpaper in its embryonic state is more finished than this seascape."

The article was mockingly entitled, "Exhibition of the Impressionists." Rather than taking it as an insult, Monet and the rest of his friends turned it into a compliment and assumed the name of "Impressionists." Impressionism became one of the greatest movements in the history of art. Even today, it is one of the most widely recognized and dearly loved styles of art, and has influenced the world of modern art in countless ways.

# Impressionism

Impressionism began in Paris, France during the mid-19th century (around the 1860s) when a handful of artists became disenchanted with the art establishment of the day.

The Academy of Arts in Paris had an annual art exhibition, known as the Salon. At this exhibition, artists would show their work in the hopes that rich patrons would buy it and continue to support their livelihood. In fact, success at the Salon was of utmost importance for any artist's career.

However, the artists and art critics of the Salon only valued art made in the traditional styles of the old masters – mythological imagery, scenes from the Bible or history, classical landscapes, portraiture, still life, etc.

A new group of artists opposed the ideals of traditional, classical-style art. They didn't want the heavy, dark *chiaroscuro* of the old masters. Instead, they wanted to capture the light, the movement, and the excitement of an ordinary, fleeting moment.

Artists such as Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Frédéric Bazille, and Alfred Sisley began painting in their own way, out of doors, with short, quick brushstrokes to capture the dancing light and the way color changed at various times of the day or throughout the seasons.

Although Édouard Manet did not identify himself as an Impressionist, these young artists respected and admired his work – his freedom of subject matter, as well as his freedom of brushstrokes, and after a while they began to influence his art too. Manet began to paint in the

open air and started using a lighter color palette.

In 1874, Edgar Degas joined with Monet, Renoir, and Sisley, as well as Paul Cézanne, Berthe Morisot, and others at their own art exhibition, "The Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers." (Édouard Manet declined to exhibit with them.)

These artists decided to think for themselves, create from their hearts instead of their heads, and focus on painting modern scenes in the "here and now." In the process, they began an art revolution.

And unfortunately, they were ridiculed by the art establishment in Paris. One art critic stated that their paintings looked as if they had "fired paint at the canvas with a pistol." While another said they were "declaring war on beauty."

Still another art critic (mentioned earlier) in his newspaper review of their exhibition, sarcastically referred to them as "Impressionists."

Monet and the rest of his friends quickly adopted the satirical name of Impressionists, and Impressionism became one of the most influential art movements in history.

Some of the most admired and esteemed artists of this movement, along with Monet, were: Renoir, Degas, Cézanne, Cassatt, Morisot, Pissarro, Sisley, and others.

In the words of Claude Monet:

*"Impressionism is only direct sensation. All great painters were less or more impressionists. It is mainly a question of instinct..."*

## New Methods in Art

Impressionistic style focused on loose brushwork, brighter color palettes, capturing the way light changes, and the movement of water and wind, among other things.

Traditional linear perspective and form were abandoned and impressions of the moment were preferred. Art critics condemned these paintings as ugly, amateur and unfinished.

A few of the new (and not-so-new) art techniques that began during the Impressionist movement were:

1. *Tache* - French word meaning, “blot, stain, or mark”; an art technique in which the artist uses quick, spontaneous brushwork to drip blobs of paint onto the canvas
2. *Alla prima* - Italian phrase meaning, “all at once”; a wet-on-wet” technique in art in which the artist layers wet oil paints, one after another (not waiting for the layers to dry in between)
3. *Impasto*, an Italian word meaning “dough” or “paste,” is a technique in which the paint is laid thickly onto the canvas in such a way that the brushstrokes remain visible. (This technique wasn’t necessarily new, having been used during the Baroque Period, but the Impressionists took it to new heights.)
4. Painting *en plein air*, French phrase for painting out of doors
5. The use of “complementary colors” (colors on opposite ends of the color spectrum) to contrast and enhance each other
6. Optical color mixing - a technique in which the artist, rather than mixing colors on the palette, mixes directly on the canvas or strokes on hues next to each other, leaving the viewer’s eye to do the blending



## New Tools for Art

The 19th century was a time of invention and development in many areas, the art world included. Here are a few of the new innovations that allowed the Impressionist to work en plein air, or with their tache, impasto, and alla prima methods:

1. The field easel - a portable easel that could be folded and easily carried around outside to paint
2. Pre-mixed oil paints in tubes. No longer was the artist bound to his studio mixing colors all day long. Now, with pre-mixed paints in tubes, he or she was free to move about throughout the countryside.
3. Hog hair paint brushes, which allowed paint to be laid on thickly in the impasto style
4. The invention of the "ferrule" - the metal crimp on a paint brush that holds the hairs/bristles onto the handle. Before its invention during the Victorian Era, all paint brushes were round. By placing a ferrule around the bristles, they could be flattened out to allow for long, flat brushstrokes (a favorite among the Impressionists).
5. Sgraffito tools which allowed the artist to scratch the surface of a canvas, revealing the paint underneath
6. Pastels (which had been in use since the Renaissance) came to the forefront when artists such as Degas and Cassatt began using them as their primary medium.

# Impressionism in Music

Impressionism as a movement in music lasted from around 1890 to 1930. Just as the French Impressionist painters used a blurring brush technique, creating beautiful images without clear-cut lines, the same can be said of the music which we call Impressionistic.

Some of the techniques the composers of this era included in their music were:

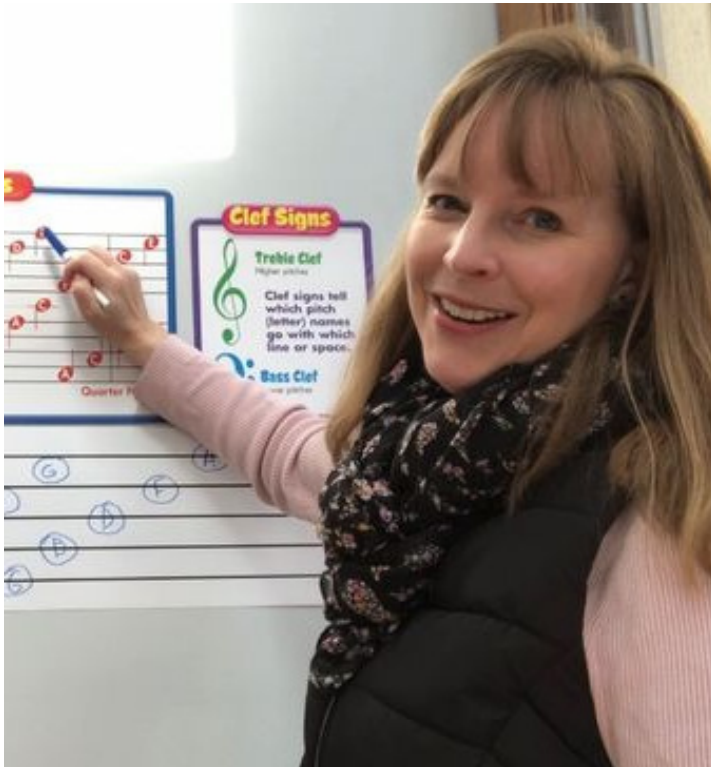
- a lack of steady beat
- using unusual or older types of scales such as whole tone, pentatonic, and church modes
- not resolving harmonies and having ambiguous tonalities
- using parallel motion

Heavy use of piano pedaling was often employed to blend together the musical notes and chords making them sound blurry, much like the brush strokes in Monet's paintings.

Notable Impressionist composers include Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, Frederick Delius, Erik Satie, Ottavino Respighi, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Manuel de Falla, Jean Sibelius, and Isaac Albéniz.

Impressionistic music influenced many genres such as symphonic and other orchestral pieces, songs, choral works, and piano works.

# Lesson 1



In Lesson One, Gena will explore Claude Debussy's orchestral and piano pieces with us.

Be ready to move as we seek to "feel" and "express" the Impressionism in the music and how it differs from the music written just before this era.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- A scarf and a set of rhythm sticks if you have them
- If you have a piano or piano keyboard, you may enjoy playing along with Gena as she teaches about some specific music theory characteristics you'll find in Impressionistic music.
- Paper keyboard included in this workbook (if you don't have a real one)

# Claude Debussy



## Fast Facts:

**Born:** August 22, 1862

**Died:** March 25, 1918

**Country of Origin:** France

**Movement:** Impressionism

**Techniques:** Dissonant chords or non-harmonic tones to manipulate the key in his music and to create ambiguity in the perception

## Did You Know?

- Debussy began taking piano lessons when he was only 7 years old even though his family was poor and not musical. His father was a shopkeeper who sold china, and his mother was a seamstress.
- His parents had high hopes of him becoming virtuoso at the piano. However, he never placed higher than fourth in his competitions.
- Debussy wrote "Children's Corner" for his daughter, Claude-Emma, when she was just three years old. The piece is intended to evoke memories of childhood.
- During World War I, fuel was scarce in France. Debussy desperately needed coal to heat his home but he couldn't afford it. So instead of money, he offered to pay for it by writing an original composition. This offer was accepted by the coal merchant. The piece, which proved to be Debussy's last composition, was aptly named, "Evenings Lighted by Burning Coals."

*"Works of art make rules but rules do not make works of art."*

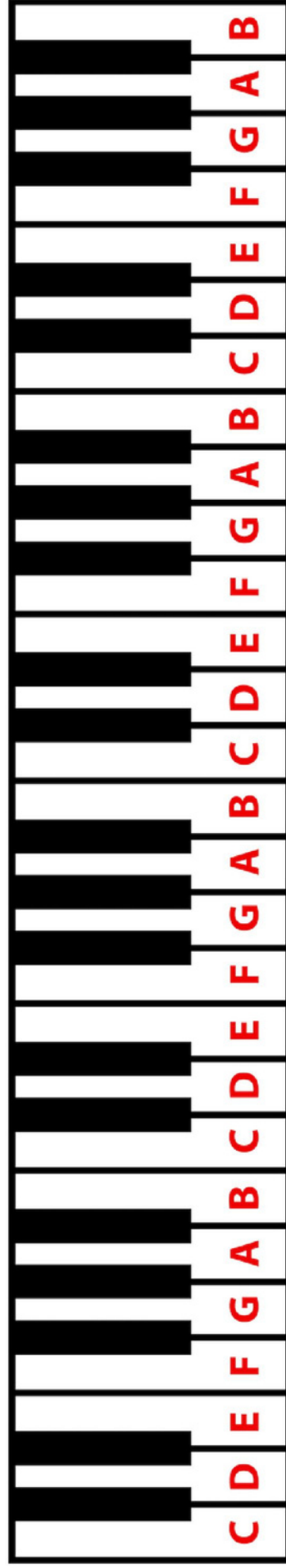
*- Claude Debussy*

## Famous Works:

- Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)
- Clair de Lune (Moonlight)
- Arabesque No. 1
- La Mer (The Sea)

# Impressionism in Music

Gena Mayo ~ Music in Our Homeschool



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# Impressionism in Music

Gena Mayo ~ Music in Our Homeschool

Use these words to fill in the blanks from what you learned in the workshop:

parallel motion, unresolved harmonies, Claude Monet, Clair du Lune, Arabesque No. 1, Maurice Ravel, 1890-1930, steady beat, Claude Debussy, whole tone scale, rubato.

After \_\_\_\_\_ painted "Impression, Sunrise," the new Impressionistic style eventually influenced composers such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This new musical era flourished from \_\_\_\_\_.

Impressionistic composers wanted their music to create an "impression" on the hearer and used techniques such as a free flow tempo known as \_\_\_\_\_, rather than keeping a \_\_\_\_\_ as you would have heard in most music of the time.

They also used some exotic scales such as the \_\_\_\_\_, pentatonic scale, and archaic church modes. Other features of Impressionistic music include \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, which sound typical to us today but were very new at the time.

A couple of beautiful Impressionistic pieces include Debussy's piano pieces \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

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ANSWERS

# Impressionism in Music

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# Lesson 2



In Lesson Two, Alisha will teach us how to recreate one of Claude Monet's favorite (he painted over 250 variations) and most famous subjects: *Water Lilies*.

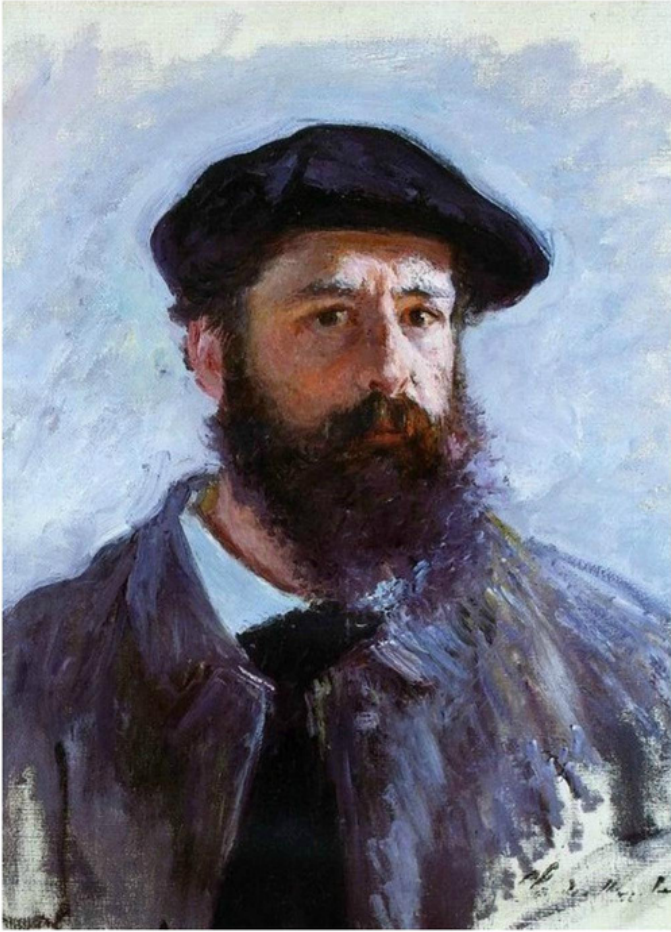
We will paint quickly using Impressionist techniques such as *tache* and *alla prima*.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Canvas, watercolor paper OR substrate of your choice
- Acrylic paints: Turquoise (or light blue), Red, Yellow and White
- Medium size paint brush & one small/thin paint brush



# Claude Monet



## Fast Facts:

**Born:** November 14, 1840

**Died:** December 5, 1926

**Country of Origin:** France

**Movement:** Impressionism

**Techniques:** Tache, Alla Prima, Impasto

**Elements:** Color, Light, Movement

## Did You Know?

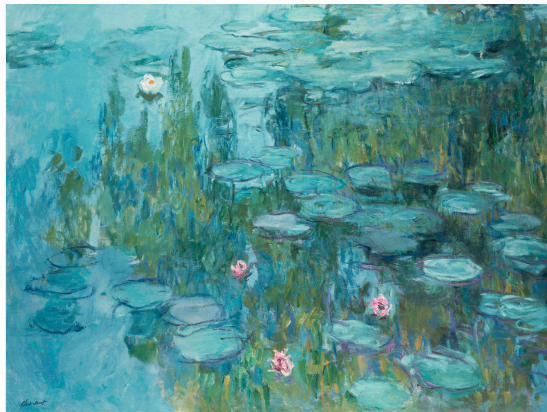
- As a child, Monet drew caricatures of the teachers and students at school, filling entire notebooks with drawings instead of the assignments that were due. As he grew older, he became well-known throughout his town for the drawings he would create of the town's residents.
- Monet wanted to become an artist, but his father wanted him to go into the family grocery business.
- Monet met aspiring artists, Renoir, Bazille, and Sisley at a traditional art school in Paris, but they all quit to follow their own artistic paths and new approaches. Together with artists such as Manet, Degas, Cezanne, and others, this group started the movement known as "Impressionism."

*"I would like to paint the way a bird sings."*

*- Claude Monet*



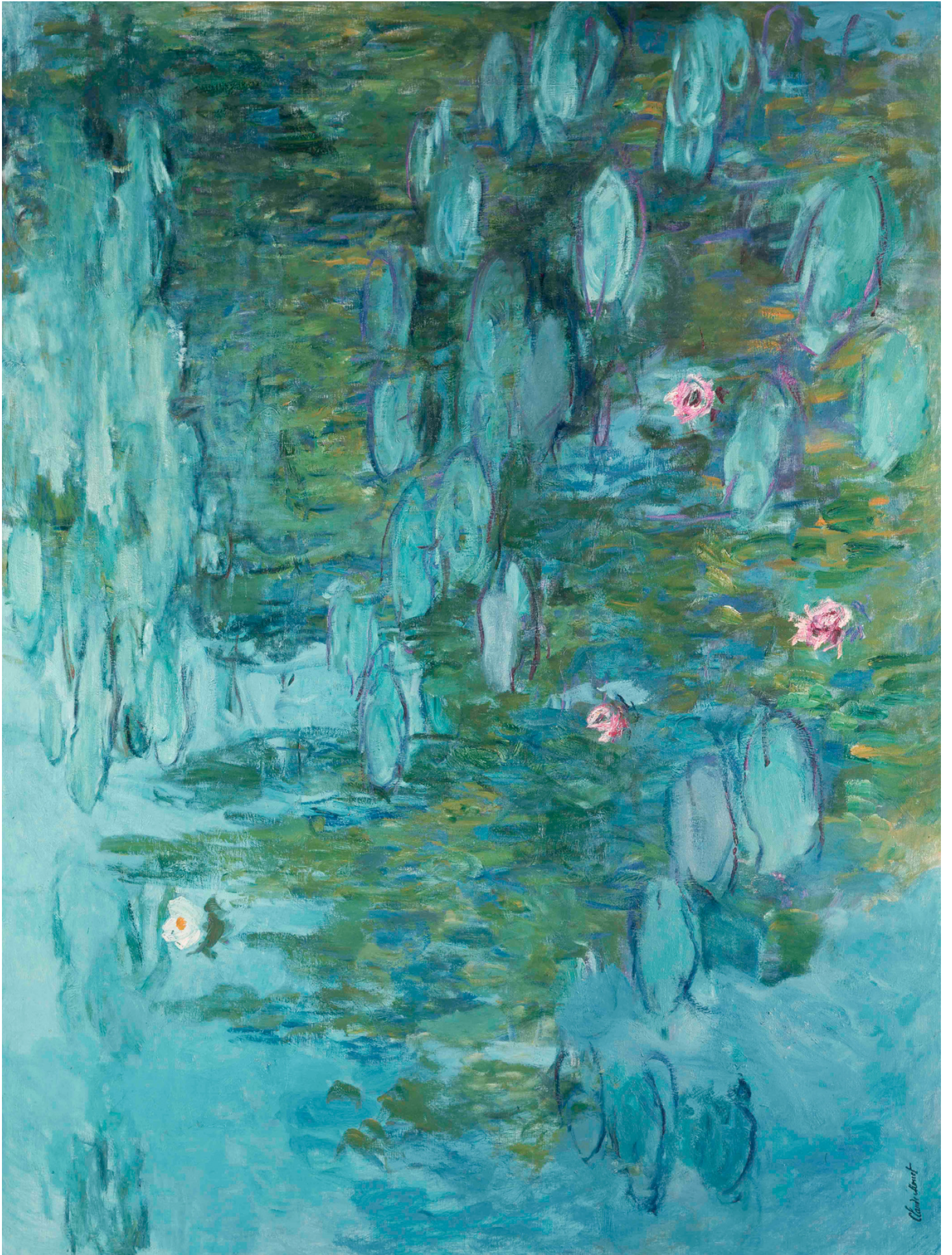
*The Japanese Bridge*



*Water Lilies*



*Woman with a Parasol*



# What's next?

If you want to give your children a truly well-rounded education that includes the best of Homeschool Fine Arts, then we'd love for your family to join one (or both) of our memberships!



**MUSIC IN OUR HOMESCHOOL  
MEMBERSHIP WAITLIST**



**MASTERPIECE SOCIETY  
STUDIO WAITLIST**