COMPOSITION
Composition in Art & Music

**Composition** – an arrangement of elements of art or music into a unified whole

(unified by the intent of the artist in traditional theory; unified by the perception of it as a work of art by the perceiver according to contemporary critical theory)
Piet Mondrian, *Composition with Blue, Yellow, Black, and Red*, 1922
arrangement

Where are things placed within the frame of the image?

In music, where are things placed in time (and register) within the duration (time frame!) of the piece?
What is the most boring place in a picture?

DEAD CENTER
Horizon lines are rarely placed exactly in the middle.
Millet, *The Gleaners*, 1857, 33x44"
Corot, *The harbor of la Rochelle*, 1851, 20x28"
Stravinsky, Arnold Newman photo
David,
*Death of Marat,*
1793
David,
*Death of Marat,*
1793
Georges de La Tour
French, 1593 - 1652
*The Repentant Magdalen,*
c. 1640
Georges de La Tour
French, 1593 - 1652
*The Repentant Magdalen,*
c. 1640
oil on canvas, 113 x 92.7 cm (44 1/2 x 36 1/2 in.)
Raphael
*Madonna dell Granduca*,
c.1505
33 x 22 in
Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg
*Woman in Front of a Mirror*, 1841
oil on canvas, 33.5 x 26 cm
(13 3/16 x 10 1/4)
Giving or withholding in time
Withholding/giving example

Värttinä – Finnish folk-rock band

TIME

HIGH

MIDDLE

LOW (BASS)

PITCH SPACE
LISTENING EXAMPLE –

DUKE ELLINGTON

HARLEM AIR SHAFT

Hear various sections as blocks of sound in relationship to each other
Become aware of COMPOSITION

DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE – The work did not simply appear fully formed; it could exist in a different way
SELECTION

Laura Rauch