



MUSIC IS THE KEY

I don't fear writer's block. Whenever the door to my creativity is closed, I reach for the key I know will open it. Music. There is nothing that finds our muse faster than a melody that moves us. Memories, emotions and moments of true clarity are part of the experience when we take the time to listen.

I have a theory about why this happens. Composers sit closer to our Creator than the rest of us so they benefit from the sacred gift of insight. They're also generous souls who share their visions freely. Make a point of tapping into the energy their music generates.

For writers that means channeling the sensations music elicit into story ideas. It may mean incorporating a piece of music into a storyline. Musical tastes can also reveal personality traits. It defines character and exposes details that would otherwise stay hidden. I wonder, for example, what piece of music Roman Emperor Nero played on his fiddle as his world burned?

In your quest for musical motivation explore musical genres you don't know and instruments you've never heard. Their voices will astound you, enchant you and perhaps lead you to write songs of your own.

WORDS' WORTH PROJECT #3: STRIKE A CHORD

Materials Needed: instrumental music & listening device; craft paper & coloured pencils or poster paints; writing paper & pen.

- 🔗 Find a piece of instrumental music you have never heard before - make it classical, jazz or world music. As you listen, draw anything that reflects the emotion & rhythms of the piece. Don't evaluate your artwork. Just go with the flow.
- 🔗 Listen to the piece repeatedly until you become familiar with its nuances. Write down words that come to you as you listen.
- 🔗 Now hone in on a particular instrument. Become familiar with its sound and role in the music so you can personify its voice.
- 🔗 Create a character that is this instrument.
- 🔗 Tell its story through a poem.