



The following artists, who are members of the Appalachian Pastel Society, participated in this virtual group activity while “Sheltering-in-Place” at their homes. The artwork they created is shared here. Hugs and best wishes to all until we can meet together safely.

## APS Adventures in Pastel

### Adventure TWO: “Feeding the Muse”

Our second APS pastel adventure is “Feeding the Muse.” In this adventure we will explore using music and poetry to nurture our creativity and inspire a painting. Here’s how it will work:

**Step 1:** Think about a piece of music or a poem that has special meaning to you. A piece that moved you in some way.

**Step 2:** Consider how you could use that emotional connection to inspire a painting.

**Step 3:** The challenge is to capture that connection in a painting. Your art could complement your source of inspiration, project a point of view, a mood, a gesture, etc.

**Step 4:** When you finish, take a photo of your painting and share with us what you have accomplished. Remember, however, your painting does not need to be in its finished form. The adventure is so we can be painting together. This means exploring and experimenting with new ideas and techniques using pastels.

**Step 5:** Send your **photo with the title and size** of your painting along with the **title/author/artist of your “muse”** to Kay Gordon ([jkaygordon364@gmail.com](mailto:jkaygordon364@gmail.com)) by Sunday, June 21 at 6 PM. Feel free to include a brief commentary about your process. If possible, also include a **link to the music or poetry** that was the inspiration for your painting.

**Step 6:** Remember this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6 PM on Sunday, June 21, 2020. On your mark; get set; PAINT!

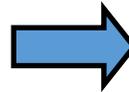
**NOTE:**

**Before “Viewing” this Show  
Please Read the following GUIDE**

The painting images in this show are accompanied by a link to the Artist’s Muse.

Here are the instructions for using those links:

1. **Right-click** the word “Music” (or “Poem”)



2. In the drop-down list that appears, **left click** “Open Link in New Window”

3. Enjoy the music or lyrics that go with the painting.

4. When you are ready to return to the rest of the Show, **left click** the “X” on the tab at the left to close the window.



*ENJOY THIS  
UNIQUE SHOW!*

**Anne Allen**, Hendersonville

*Reverie* 8 x 6

**Music of Color**

Claude Debussy was regarded as the founder of musical Impressionism. *Reverie* shares characteristics with Impressionist painters, Monet especially. I paired Debussy's *Reveire* with my interpretation of a Monet water garden.

Muse: *Reverie* by Claude Debussy, performed by Lang Lang

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[MUSIC](#)



**Kathy Amspacher**, Hendersonville

*Kikisoblu/Princess Angeline* 15 x 22

(on Holbein Sabretooth gesso treated paper. (Do not recommend, pastels battered during experience)

Muse: Chief Seattle's quote



Edward S. Curtis photograph

Right click  
Select new window  
[STORY/QUOTE](#)



**Dolores Andrus**, Hendersonville

*Seas Forever* 7 x 11

Muse: poem "Sea Fever" by John Masefield



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Select new window  
[POEM](#)

[Read by the poet himself]

My "Muse" has always been the sea--wild, crashing, and poetry in motion. John Masefield's, lovely poem "Sea Fever" is my music at the easel. This particular poem fell into my life many years ago and is never far from playing a hand in my mood...I have sketches and photos to get lost in. John Masefield begins: " I must down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and sky, And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by:....."

**Catharin Banta**, Hendersonville

Muse: "The Four Seasons op 8 Spring" Antonio Vivaldi, Budapest Strings, Banfalvi, Conductor

*Light Wandering 12 x 9 on Uart*

I chose Vivaldi spring as my musical inspiration. At times the music buoyed me along and I got over thinking there was a right or wrong with this exercise and a freedom ensued. I found the music to be uplifting, and inspiring and I used spring-like complementary colors. Having an

old sketch with clematis vines that bloomed in the spring I used that for the underpainting, and I found when I came back to the piece I could not quite capture the mood that I had I the day before. The musical score at the very bottom of the page is something that is from the music that I used thinking I was going to crop the whole piece.

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[MUSIC](#)



**Jane Best**, Morganton

Muse: "The Road Not Taken" poem by Robert Frost

*The Road Not Taken 9 x 12 Uart 500*

"My inspiration for this painting is Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" which to me is about having choices and making decisions in life. For me, both literally and figuratively, it's also been about deciding to take the Interstate or the Scenic Route. Most always, I've preferred the Scenic Route.

Based on a photo I took several years ago at Moses Cone Estate, Blowing Rock, NC."



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[POEM](#)

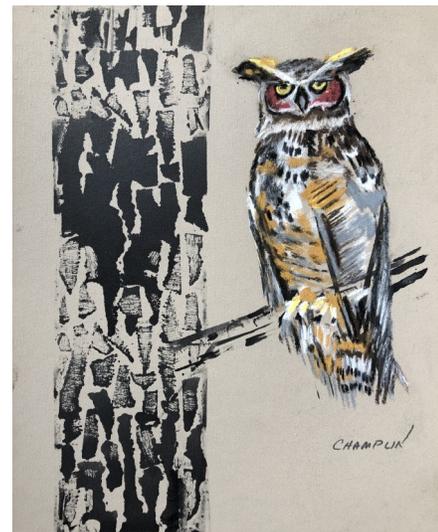
**Michelle Breen**, Asheville

Muse: poem, "In the Pine Woods, Crows and Owl" by Mary Oliver

*Great Horned Owl 8 x 6 pastel & brayer w ink*

The poem I used is from a book of poetry written by Mary Oliver titled American Primitive. In the book the title of the poem is... Crows and Owl . In the link I sent they cite the title as Crow and Owl.

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[POEM](#)



**Deborah Chase**, Hendersonville

*The Old Violin* 9.5 x 7.5

Muse: poem "The Touch of the Master's Hand"

by Myra Brooks Welch

Thursday was my Mom's birthday. I was thinking of her and wishing I could visit when I found out the topic for the "Adventure". I immediately thought of a poem she liked. It is about an old violin up for auction. Over the years I have painted many daylily paintings which are her favorite flower so it isn't the poem or the flowers but my mother that is my Muse.

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Select new window  
[POEM](#)



**Nancy Clausen**, Swannanoa

*Bread of Life* 12 x 12

It's not finished, but wanted some time to consider what I wanted to do.

I used this for my muse as I feel that my art has been a gift. It was not something I thought I'd ever do, but when I was in my 50's I found I could actually draw. Not only did I find a had some talent, but I've had incredible teachers and met some wonderful friends. I like to paint w/out music and even though I enjoy poetry, I have never felt any that moved me to paint. So this is my way of acknowledging where my gift came from.



It's done on 12 x12 pastel premier paper which I put gouache on to cover the white.

**Merrie Datin**, Asheville

Muse: "Hello" written by Adele and Greg Kurstin, performed by Adele

*Hello...It's Me* 10 x 5

I continue to be moved by the drama and emotionality of this song by Adele - the message, the lyrics, the melody and Adele's voice. The woman on the phone is trying to connect with an old lover. This is my attempt to capture some of that emotion. I chose that she's alone, wearing pink and that her back is to us in a not-so-relaxed pose in an uncomfortable chair. The first three words of the song are "Hello it's me."



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[MUSIC](#)

**Marcia Donley, Zionville**

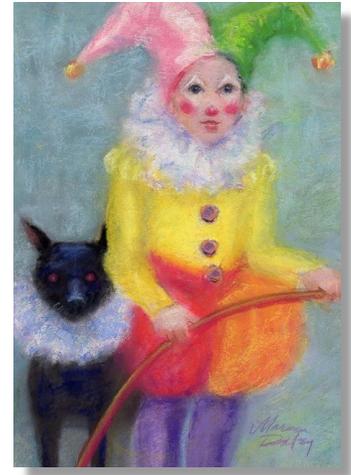
*Bring in the Clowns, 14 x 11*

*On Canson specially-prepared watercolor paper*

Muse: "Send in the Clowns" by Stephen Sondheim,  
performed by Judy Collins

"Bright and splashy colors with a wistful  
undertone in the clowns."

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[MUSIC](#)



**Will Evans, Fairview** Muse: Antonio Vivaldi's "Four Seasons", Budapest Strings, Banfalvi, Conductor

*Summer Shower 11 x 14*

[on Colourfix Plein Air Painting Board" watercolor  
underpainting, build up with Nupastel hard cubes,  
finish with soft pastels]

The Muse is my view of the Blue Ridge  
Mountains (specifically Big Pisgah). It's a  
Muse that never disappoints, early  
morning as the mists rise to a range of  
sunsets. The soundtrack must be  
Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

Right click  
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[MUSIC](#)



**Barbara Garwood, Linville, NC**

*Waiting in the Weeds 9 x 7 on Uart 500*

Muse: "Waiting in the Weeds" by Steuart Smith  
and Don Henley performed by The Eagles

It is from a reference photo I took in my soulful place, a  
former Christmas tree farm across the street from our  
house. This tree looked rather forlorn but hopeful that  
maybe, just maybe, it would be the chosen tree.

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[MUSIC](#)

My muse was the song, "Waiting in the Weeds" by The Eagles on their Long  
Road out of Eden album. Here are the words that made me pause, look a little  
harder at this particular tree, and imagine it, too, waiting.

"And I've been waiting in the weeds,  
waiting for my time to come around again.  
And hope is floating on the breeze,  
Carrying my soul high up above the ground."



**J Kay Gordon, Weaverville** Muse: Grand Canyon Suite III, Ferde Grofe NY Philharmonic Orchestra, Bernstein

*Sunrise, North Rim Trail* 4 x 6 on black Uart800

I "visited" the Grand Canyon today courtesy of Google Streetview...a wonderful source of references for paintings. You just "ride along" and take your own photo when you see something that interests you. You can look around, up and down, and zoom in on anything to compose your scene. The photo I took reinforced my memories from a mule trip into the

Canyon (many) years ago. I have always enjoyed the Grand Canyon Suite, and listened to it while doing this painting...the music was just the thing to infuse my mind with the depth and atmosphere.

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[MUSIC](#)



**MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN**

*Green Pastures* 9 x 12 on Uart 320

I used the poetry of the psalms as my "muse", specifically, psalm 23. This passage always makes me feel very peaceful. I used a photo reference of a plein air site from last year that I thought would fit well. I think I have some more tweaking to do on this one but wanted to get it to you before it got too late.

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[PSALM 23](#)

Muse: Psalm 23



**Sami Griffis, Flat Rock**

*Tree Swallows at Sunset* 15 x 18

I wake up every morning to a chorus of birds singing in the trees which surround my home. There are some which are particularly cheerful, almost as cheerful in their song as my parakeets were. I discovered the birds singing were tree swallows, and are the same birds I watch each evening as they dart and swoop after insects just as the sun is setting. Their happy sounds just inspired me, as did this internet meme, credited to Claude Monet. I decided to explore why birds sing, and uncovered a fascinating article about it. Well worth reading! The link is <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/birdsong/>

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[SWALLOWS](#)

Muse: Internet meme, credited to Claude Monet ...and the songs of tree swallows



**Alec Hall**, Hendersonville

*Morning Mood* 9 x 12

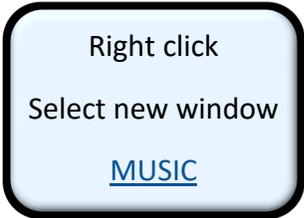
[on Richeson Premier Pastel Surface]

When I started painting 20+ years ago, I often listened to classical music in my studio. One of my favorite CDs was Peer

Gynt Suites by Edvard Grieg, a Norwegian composer/pianist. The first movement in Suite 1 is "Morning Mood". My studio faced east and we saw some beautiful sunrises on our farm in Allegan, MI. The reference for this painting was a photo of one of those sunrises. The music brings to mind vivid images of the awakening day as the earth is warmed by the rising sun and the new day is greeted with the songs of various birds.

Muse: Peer Gynt Suite 1, Morning Mood by Edvard Grieg

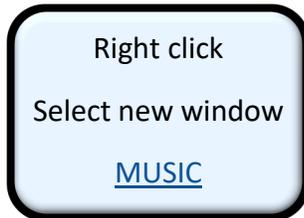
performed by the Polish Youth Orchestra



**Gail Helton**, Knoxville, TN

*Arise*, 11 x 14

Muse: "Let it Rise" by Paul Baloche, performed by Big Daddy Weave



**Ginny Hotze**, Asheville

*Brothers Sing* 12 x 16



The underpainting was all I could get done. Think I'm in over my head on this one but I love the challenge. This is a photo from my parents 50th wedding anniversary taken 30 years ago. We were raised singing and dancing. 16x12 "brothers sing".

**Karen Knaub, Lake Lure**

*Stairway to Heaven*

[various hard and soft pastels. 2 underpaintings with hard pastel and alcohol wash]

Muse: "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin songwriters, Jimmy Page/ Robert Plant

This was a tough challenge for me I always work with a photo reference and this was done from my head. I'm not completely happy with this. But it was a good exercise.

"Stairway to Heaven" came

out when I was 16 years old. It had so much meaning to me then and also to this day. Every path I choose not only affects my life, but everyone I knows life. And sometimes life is crazy and you can get lost wondering around. Just hoping to find the right path, and be wise enough to choose it. I was in Hawaii this past fall on Oahu and there is a stairway going all the way up the mountain. The locals call it Stairway to Heaven. That was my inspiration for the mountains

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[MUSIC](#)



**Cindy Lidd, Asheville**

*Shallow 11 x 8*

Muse: "Shallow " composed by Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, Andrew Wyatt and Anthony Rossomando Performed by Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga

"Attached is my painting titled "Shallow" inspired by the song of the same name from "A Star is Born" by Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga. This one was a real brain teaser for me."

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[MUSIC](#)



**Linda Medders-Jackson, Cross, SC**

*Autumn Mist 10 x 8*

Muse: "Seasons in the Sun," Singer Songwriter Rod McKuen

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[MUSIC](#)



**Don Osterberg, Hendersonville**

*"I Can See Clearly Now" 10 x 8 on Uart 500*

"Yesterday (Friday) I went outside after the rain and I saw the blue sky and thought of one of my favorite songs "i can see clearly now the rain has gone" by Johnny Nash. This song is appropriate with our problems today. I thought that this would be perfect for Adventure 2. So I did a study of the sky from my backyard. "

Muse: " I Can See Clearly Now the Rain has Gone"  
Singer/Songwriter Johnny Nash

Right click  
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[MUSIC](#)



**Joy Rademacher, Southport**

*Tangled Up in Blue, 18 x 12 on Uart 400*

It was ironic that the challenge was about muses. I had just been telling someone that I have been listening to Bob Dylan and painting a lot and considered him my current muse.

One of my favorite songs of his is Tangled Up in Blue. I like the image it creates, although sad. So here is my reaction to "Tangled Up in Blue," along with the link to the lyrics.

Muse: "Tangled Up in Blue"  
Singer/Songwriter Bob Dylan



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[MUSIC](#)

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[LYRICS](#)

**Robbins Richardson, Asheville** Muse: Pachelbel Canon composed by Johann Pachelbel, played by Jacob Ladegaard

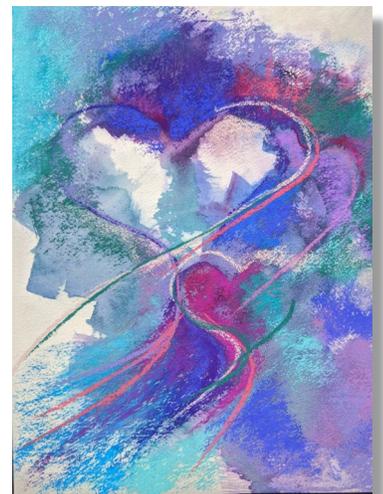
*Born of Love 12 x 9*

Choosing the music for this adventure was a no-brainer for me. This was the song that I chose to be played as I gave birth to my son Zach. I have a deep emotional response when I hear it. As far as the technique that I

explored in painting this, I drew from my roots as a watercolor painter laying down a quick wash on a piece of arches watercolor paper. Then I opened up my bottle of clear gesso that has sat on my shelf for years untouched and quickly coated a layer on top of the wash after it dried. With only two and a half hours left to go with our time limit for submission, I read on the bottle that my paper was supposed to have a 24-hour dry time before working it. Yikes! With the help of a blow dryer this was

shortened by 23.75 hours of time. The gesso muted the tone of the watercolor. Putting the pure pigment of the pastel with the vibrancy of its color on top of the gessoed wash was a sheer joy. I was delighted to have the push by our wonderful Adventure committee in this organization to attempt something I've been wanting to try. And, in case you are wondering, Zach (and our second son) is a musician.

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[MUSIC](#)



**Tracey Risteen, Waynesville** Muse: pop song, “The Middle” by Maren Morris, Zedd, and Grey

*The Middle* 11 x 9

The song is about a fight and the chorus is “Why don’t you just meet me in the middle”. Our world could use some “Hey, that’s a good idea, but how do we get there from here” dialogue. So this song runs through my head a lot.

The trees are on opposite sides reaching across the middle of the road. Having this theme in mind helped me reconsider the reference pic I took last year. Very interesting exercise! Thank you!

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[MUSIC](#)



**Chris Robinson, Leicester**

*Flight of the Bumblebee* 11 x 14

Muse: *Flight of the Bumblebee*, orchestral [interlude](#) written by [Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov](#) for his opera [The Tale of Tsar Saltan](#), composed in 1899–1900. Music here is violinist Katica Illenyi, pianist Istvan Bundzik, and Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Istvan Sillo

While in an APS pastel workshop the instructor asked us, “what would music look like in a painting?” She showed us an example that she had done that had marks for the beat of music, but I immediately had the

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[MUSIC](#)

song *Flight of the Bumblebee* in my head. How could I interpret that in a painting? . It’s a very challenging piece. Its composition is intended to musically evoke the seemingly chaotic and rapidly changing flying pattern of a [bumblebee](#). I did a quick 4x6 study when I got home from the workshop and loved it, but that study has been sitting in a box ever since. This



adventure challenge was the perfect opportunity to pull it out and see what I could do. What I loved in the smaller size didn’t work compositionally in the larger, but it’s not done and has been fun to play with. And that’s what art should be, fun.

*Memory Lane 14 x 11 on Canson Mi-Tiente*

Memory Lane ... By Ernestine Northover ... A poem that hung in my parents hallway brought this scene to mind

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[POEM](#)



*Recharge 12 x 9*

The inspiration is credited to Angela Wetland-Crosby:

"Some days even the sun needs to cocoon in gloom; to recharge behind the clouds".

9x12, unfinished; to be named " Recharge"

Right click  
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[INSPIRATION](#)



*Trails 4 x 6*

I immediately remembered a poem dashed off by a friend, a long time ago, at the same time as an accidentally spacious and pretty acrylic underpainting I had kept from a class that thoroughly intimidated me a few years back. Still a total beginner, it turns out I prefer the underpainting as it was before I tried the pastels!--for one thing I should not have cropped it down from 5x7. I also learned a few other things from this Adventure, even though I felt a need at the last moment to obliterate most of what I'd put down in the foreground!

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[POEM](#)



**Sawyer Bear Whitemiller**, Cape Coral, FL

Muse: Solfeggietto by Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach

*Solfeggietto Gatto* 12 x 16

Right click

Select new window

[MUSIC](#)

Performed by Sawyer Bear

Sawyer Bear, age 11, is the youngest member of the Appalachian Pastel Society.

“I have always wanted to do a painting of a cheetah, and this is one of my best sunset views. I even can play Solfeggietto by Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach; which is the song that inspired me.”



Much appreciation to all who participated and shared their paintings and their most personal feelings!