

Feel the Dynamics!
with teaching artist Zeynep Alpan

Grade Band: K-12

Arts Subject: Music

SUMMARY

Teaching artist Zeynep Alpan demonstrates how different dynamics in music can evoke different emotions, and leads students through the process of creating different dynamics with household objects.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students Will:

- Understand how dynamics can be used to evoke different emotions in music
- Learn about the dynamic *forte* and the dynamic *piano*
- Create different dynamics using household objects

GETTING STARTED

Vocabulary You Will Learn:

- **Dynamics**—How loud or how soft a sound is.
- **Forte**—Loud.
- **Piano**—Soft or quiet.

Materials You Will Need:

- A piece of paper or notebook
- A pencil
- An object from home that you can use to make noise

[**WATCH THE VIDEO**](#)

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TRY IT YOURSELF

How to Create Different Musical Dynamics with Household Objects

1. First, think about a time when you felt excited. Write down when this was and what your voice sounded like—loud or soft?
2. Then, think about a time when you felt very shy. Again, think about what your voice sounded like—loud or soft? Write these thoughts down.
3. Next, find an object nearby in your home that you can use to create an excited sound. In the video, Zeynep uses a cup and pencil, but you can use any object you can find to make your excited sound. Then, create excited sounds in as many different variations as you can with your object. Remember to think about how your voice sounds when it is excited.
4. Now, using the exact same object or objects, create sounds to represent the emotion “shy” in as many different variations as you can think of. Again, remember to consider how your voice sounds when you are shy.
5. Think about how you moved your body when you created your “excited” sound. You likely used a lot of force and bigger hand/arm movements to create a loud sound. This musical dynamic, or loud sound, is called **forte**. Now, think about how you moved when you made your “shy” sound. Did you use small, gentle movements to create a quiet sound? In music, that sound is called **piano**. Now you know all about musical dynamics!

THINK ABOUT

In this video, Zeynep teaches us about the way musical dynamics can evoke emotion, and how to create different dynamics using household objects. If you want to go even further, think about these questions:

- What other emotions can you create using your object? What about scared? Embarrassed? Ecstatic? Sad? What do the dynamics of these emotions sound like?
- Try finding a different object you can use to create musical dynamics. How do the dynamics, and the emotions that go along with them, look and feel different when you use this object as opposed to the one you started with?
- Think of a song that you love to listen to, and how that song makes you feel. How do the musicians use different dynamics to bring out the emotions that you feel when listening?
- In the video, Zeynep also talks about how dynamics can be used to create different characters. Think about a character from a book or movie that you love—or dream up a character of your own! What kind of dynamics could you use to show who this character is? Is their personality big and loud, or more quiet and subdued? How can you communicate this using your object?

MORE ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTIST

Turkish American violinist Zeynep Alpan (she/her) has performed in a myriad of prestigious venues, such as Carnegie Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Kennedy Center Concert Hall, and Alice Tully Hall. With a passion for teaching, Zeynep is a New York Philharmonic teaching artist who is on faculty at Lincoln Center for the Audition Boot Camp, at Point CounterPoint for the summer music program, and at the Elizabeth Faidley Studio. She has previously taught for education programs at the Juilliard School, Nord Anglia International School New York, and the Aspen Music Festival and School. To learn more, visit her website: <https://www.zeynepalpanviolin.com>.

ACCESSIBILITY NOTES

Don't forget that you can turn on "Closed Captioning" when watching the YouTube video to view English captions. Modify handouts and give preferential seating for visual presentations. Allow extra time for task completion.

CREDITS

Original Video: Zeynep Alpan

Resource Production: Kennedy Center Digital Learning; School & Community Programs

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