Meet the artist!
Born in Prague, Oklahoma, Olinka Hrdy (pronounced HER-dee) came to Norman to study art at OU in the 1920s. She put herself through college by painting murals around campus and in restaurants. During her career, she created oil paintings, watercolors, drawings with colored pencils, murals, and even designs for products like radios and magazine racks.

What’s a mural?
A mural is an artwork painted directly on or attached to a wall.

Where are these paintings now?
It’s a mystery! Hrdy created the murals for a music studio in Tulsa in the 1920s. Each panel represented a different type of music. At some point, the paintings were removed, and these small watercolor studies at the museum and a few photographs are all that remain.

What kinds of lines do you see in these paintings? Straight? Curved? Horizontal? Diagonal? Zig-zagged? Are the lines thin or thick?

What colors do you see? Has Hrdy used mostly warm or cool colors? Are the colors bright or subdued?

Do you see any repeated patterns or images? Are there any clues to the style of music represented in each panel?
DO

Don’t try this at home!

Let music inspire you.

Things you will need:
- Something to draw or paint with (colored pencils, crayons, markers, pastels, watercolors, or tempera paint)
- Paper to draw or paint on
- Music to listen to

Things to think about as you get started:
- Is the music you picked fast or slow? Loud or soft? Energetic or calm?
- You might want to make an abstract artwork using lines, shapes, and colors to react to what you hear. Do straight, curved, or zig-zag lines go better with what you’re hearing? Which colors seem to match the mood of the music?
- If you want to make a realistic picture, what does the music make you think of? A particular type of place? An animal or person?

Pick another song or style of music for your next drawing or painting, and see how differently your art turns out!