



## Pictures You Can Hear: Circus

DEBUSSY "General Lavine - eccentric" from Preludes, Book II

### CLASS ACTIVITY: Tennis Ball "Juggling"

#### OVERVIEW

In this activity, students will explore movement in relation to music and work on recognizing musical patterns.

**MATERIALS:** Tennis balls (1 per student)

**SPACE CONSIDERATIONS:** Students will need enough space to walk in a large circle. Consider moving desks and chairs to one side of the room to create an open space.

#### HOW TO PLAY

In this episode, "Pictures You Can Hear: Circus," Buddy explains three different musical patterns in the piece that signify different actions: juggling, dancing, and tricking the listener into thinking the piece has ended. Students will listen to Debussy's "General Lavine" (Preludes, Book II), and do the following actions when they hear the corresponding musical pattern:

Juggling – Bounce tennis ball on ground once and catch.

Dancing – Walk in circle, passing the tennis ball from right hand to left hand while walking.

Trick Ending – Freeze in place, begin walking again if/when the music starts back up

Have the students create a large circle in the middle of your space. Each student will need their own tennis ball, or another ball that can easily be bounced and caught. Play "General Lavine", and assist students in hearing and responding to the three musical patterns. For an added challenge, have students keep track of how many times they heard a specific musical pattern.

#### OPTIONAL

After listening to the piece and using the above actions/movements, have the group decide on three new actions that can be paired with the musical patterns and repeat activity.