

## **DRAWING TO MUSIC:** *Waldesrauschen (Forest murmurs) - Liszt*

**Interesting Fact:** Waldesrauschen is one of Liszt's Konzert Etudes, a set of virtuosic piano studies. Liszt's music is often descriptive of natural phenomenon and landscapes such as rain, waterfalls, hills, valleys, etc.

**Discussion Points:** Liszt's music is often inspired as well in poetry and stories. Many of these stories were set in the woods and the mythical creatures that inhabited them. Can you think of any forest related stories?

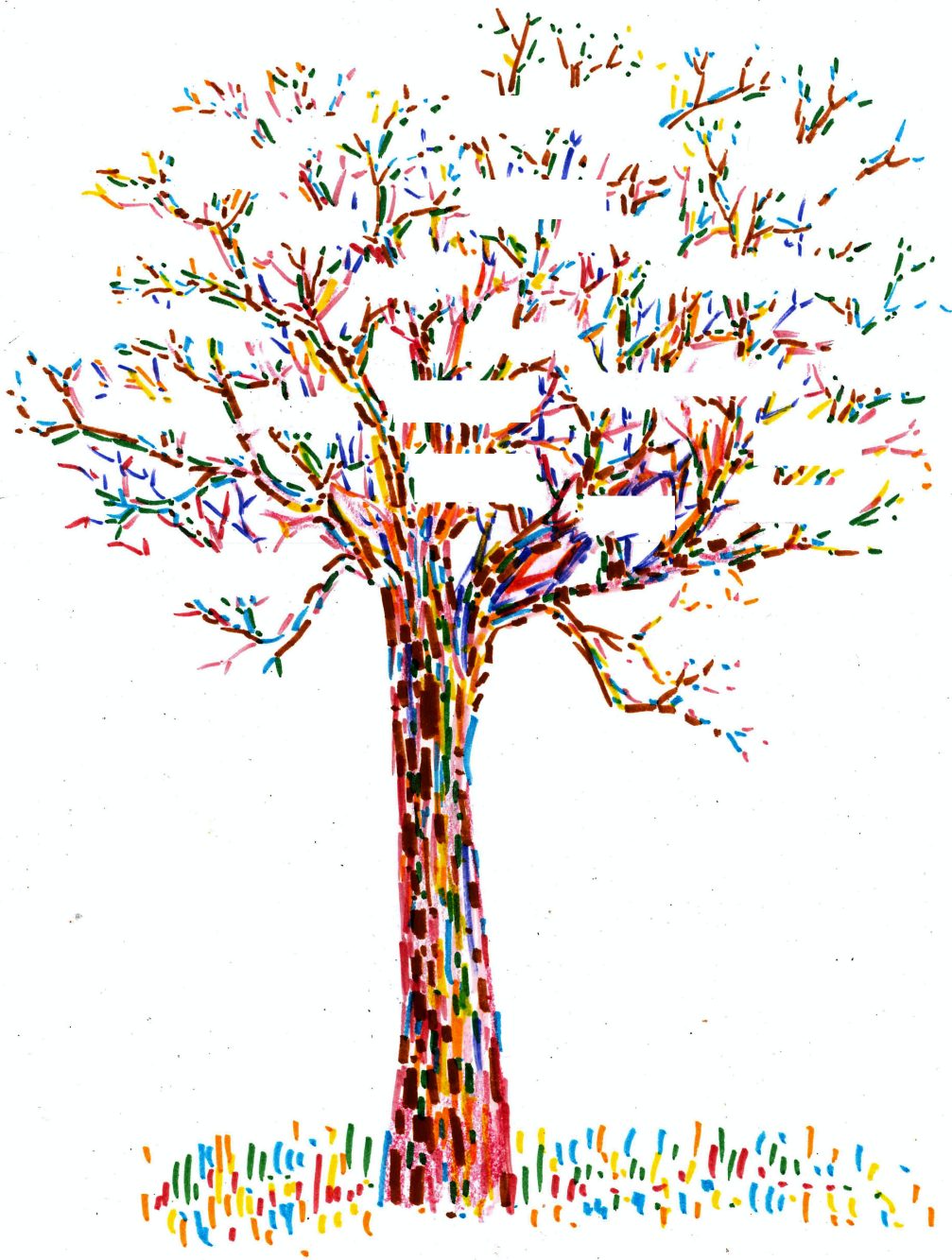
**Listening Activity:** In this piece we hear the sounds of the forest through the piano. The rustling of leaves in the swirling fast melodies, the wind, perhaps bird song? What does this music evoke to you? Can you hear the dry autumn leaves picked up by the wind? Or is the forest full of life in the midst of spring?

**Visual Activity:** First we have prepared a tree that is missing its leaves, try filling in the tree-top with the words you have thought of in the discussion.

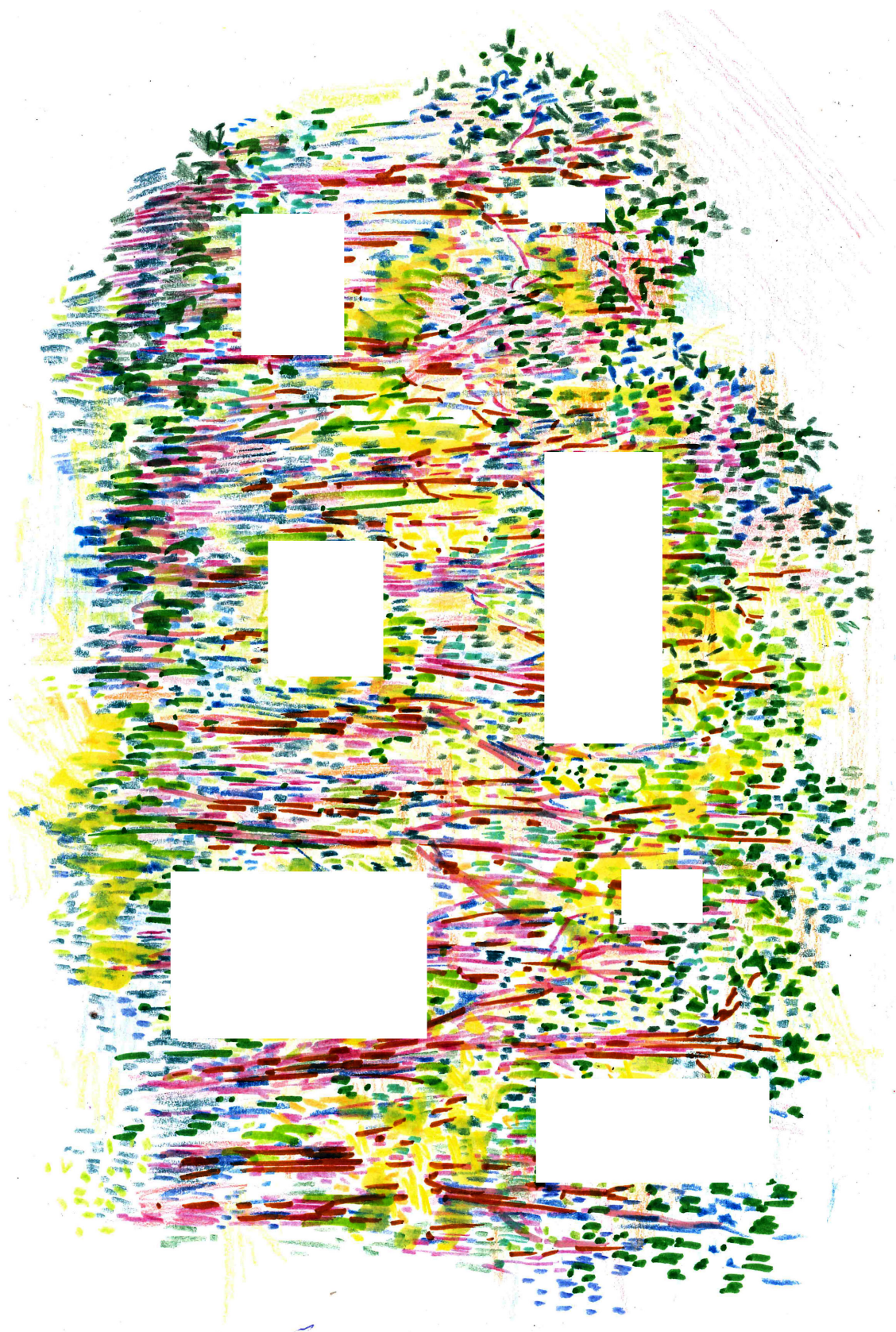
Second you will also find below the forest that grows in the film. However, it is missing some parts. Fill in these sections with what you have heard or what the forest has inspired you to think about. Perhaps you find it's the animals that are missing, perhaps some specific species of plants, perhaps it's just a certain colour, or even a magical creature....

(If colours and drawing are not for you, you may also fill the gaps with words.)

Lastly, below you may also find a 'Guide to Draw a Forest', where the artist describes the process she has followed drawing to the sound of music, and that is shown in the film. You may use this to fill the gaps of the previous exercise if you wish to imitate the missing patterns, or you can even venture to create your own forest.







## Guide to Draw a Forest (to the sound of *Liszt's Waldesrauschen*)

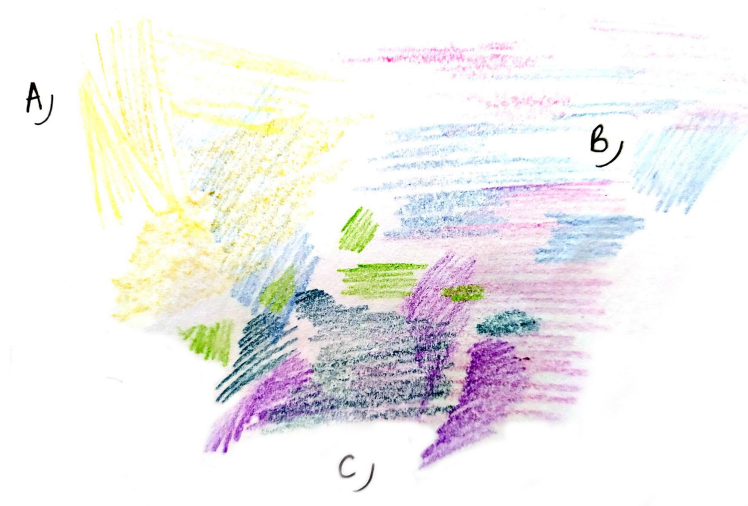
1. Listen with a blank mind.  
What colours are the sounds of the forest?  
**Look for the colours of what you hear.**

Here are some examples:

Are they light warm rays of the Sun? A.

Or perhaps cold patches of sky? B.

Or maybe dark shadows between the trees? C.



Try catching them gently with your pencils. Note that you will be building the forest with layers, so it's best to start gently and with light colours.

2. Carry on listening to where the sounds take you and watch out as they become more specific.  
Match their character to the gesture of your hand.  
**Find the shapes of the colours.**

Here are some examples:

Are they thin glimmers of light? A.

Small bristly leaves in the wind? B.

Or big heavy rocky patches? C.





3. Now concentrate on what's already there and keep listening closely.

**Look for the trees and the shapes of their trunks.**

Are they tall and thin? (A)  
or perhaps thick and heavy? (B)



Use preferably dark warm colours for this part, and watch how your forest appears.

4. Let yourself go filling in the gaps. Find the flowers, the ivy, the fallen leaves, the ones glittering in the sun, the hidden steps of the animals, the birds that sing, ...  
Most of all, don't forget to **listen and ENJOY!**

