

Painter Jan Steen is best known for his humorous scenes of daily life. He loved to show people eating, drinking, dancing, or playing music. The man strumming a lute may be Steen himself. The other figures may represent members of Steen's family.



Jan Steen (Dutch, 1626–1679).  
*The Family Concert*, 1666.  
Oil on canvas.  
Gift of Timothy B. Blackstone.



## Music and Art



- What is going on in this painting? What instruments do you see?
- Give students a chance to explore how sounds are made with various types of musical instruments. (Small instruments can be played quietly in the museum.) How are the sounds made? Describe the sounds.
- If you were in the painting, what would you hear?
- Play various types of music. What type of music fits this scene? Why?
- Have students dance while listening to several types of music, such as classical, jazz, and hip-hop. How do your movements change according to the music?
- Have students make drawings while listening to different types of music. How do the drawings relate to the music?

Illinois State Goals: 4, 19, 25, 26

## Family Gatherings



- How does your family celebrate? What do people do at your family gatherings? Do people sing, watch movies, play games, eat?
- Have students look at and talk about family photographs with their family.
- Have students bring in one of their favorite family photographs and share with the rest of the class.
- Have students make a drawing or write a story about a family gathering.

Illinois State Goals: 3, 4, 25, 26

## Animal Adventures



- What animals are in the painting? What are they doing? Are the dog and cat friends? Are they interested in the music? If they could talk, what would they say?
- Read and discuss books that tell stories about animals and their adventures.
- Ask students to create a story about the animals in this painting. Have them illustrate their stories in a comic book format.

Illinois State Goals: 1, 3, 4, 25, 26

Lines,  
Shapes,  
Colors

Animals

Transportation

Home

Play

Draw a party.

