

BREAKING THE NORMS

Composer Ludwig van Beethoven and dancer Martha Graham each broke the aesthetic norms of their time. A **norm** is a customary, expected way to do something. Raising your hand in class and waiting to be called on is an example of a norm (a **social norm**). Writing a song with a melody that someone can hum is another example of a norm (a **musical norm**).

Assemble each of the puzzles to learn more about Beethoven, Graham, the norms they broke, and the new aesthetic norms they helped to create.

After you build the puzzles, read more about both Beethoven and Graham. Then, discuss the following:

- How did Beethoven transform music from the Classical Era?
- Why is Graham known as the “Mother of Modern Dance”?
- In what ways are Beethoven and Graham similar in how they revolutionized their respective fields of art?
- Does it take courage to break a norm? What do you think?

Puzzle Instructions

Cut out all of the puzzle tiles and mix them together with the words facing up. Separate the tiles into each of the following groups: Classical Music, Beethoven, Classical Ballet, and Graham. Flip each group over and arrange the pieces to create a picture.

Classical Ballet Puzzle





Aesthetic

Focus on delicate and fluid movements that exude classical ideals of beauty

Aesthetic

Elaborate sets and costumes

Aesthetic

Agility, control, speed, lightness, and grace

Famous Works

Swan Lake,
The Nutcracker,
Sleeping Beauty

Technique

Rigorous foot work, turnout of the legs, and high extensions

Aesthetic

Flowing, long lines, and ethereal qualities

Time Period

Late 1800s
to early 1900s

Technique

Pointe Work –
Dancers stand on the tips of their toes wearing pointe shoes

Technique

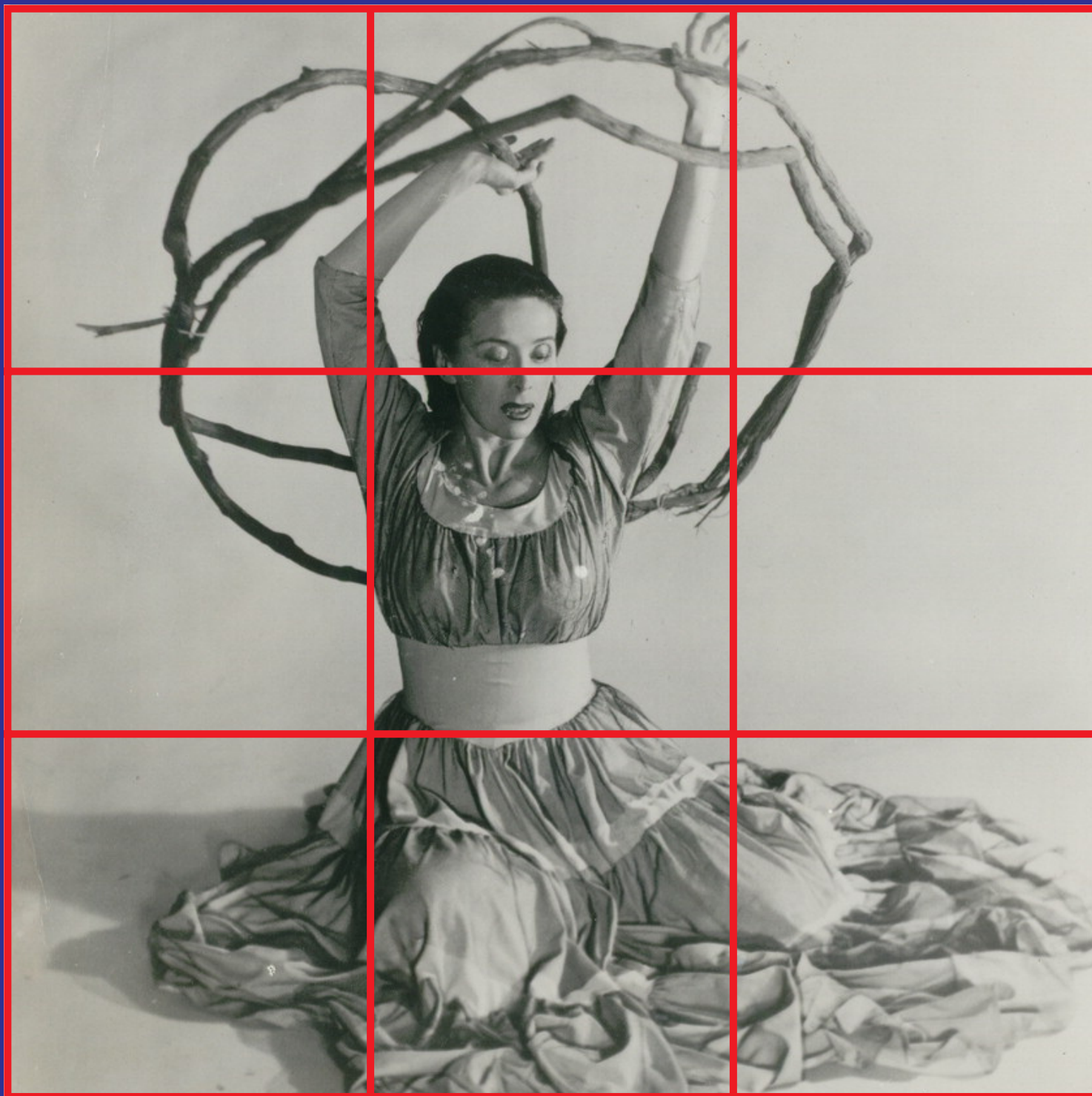
Five positions of feet and arms:
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th



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Martha Graham Puzzle



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Legacy

Known as the
Mother of Modern Dance

Aesthetic

Angular movements
and spasms

Technique

Fully integrated use
of arms, legs,
spine, and torso
to create movement

Aesthetic

Embodies a wide range
of emotions and
states of being

Technique

Opposing forces of
“contraction and
release” inspired from
the natural rhythm of
exhale-inhale

Time Period

1894 to 1991

Famous Works

Lamentation,
Appalachian Spring,
Night Journey

Technique

Movement starts from
the middle of the body,
driven by the abdominal
muscles coupled with
exhalation

Legacy

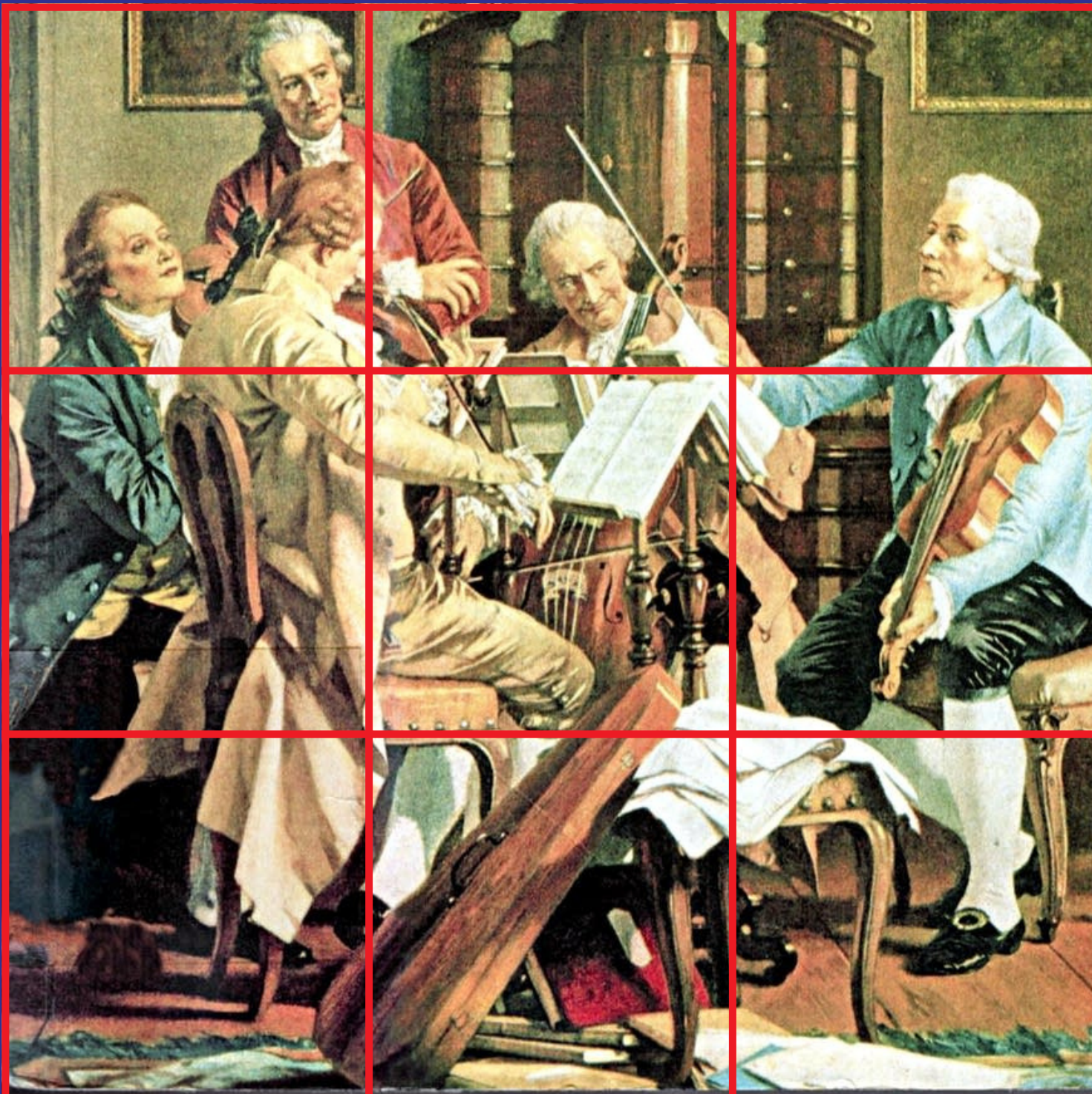
Revolutionary impact in
dance and American
cultural history



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Classical Music Puzzle



**Aesthetic**

Emphasis on pleasant sounds and classical ideals of beauty

Aesthetic

Moderate and controlled expression of human emotion

Aesthetic

Simple, elegant, and balanced melodies

Famous Works

“Surprise” Symphony,
The Magic Flute,
Ave Maria

Technique

Clear question and answer phrases

Composers

Haydn, Mozart,
and Schubert

Technique

Homophonic textures -
- single melody
plus accompaniment

Instrumentation

The piano replaces
the harpsichord

Time Period

1730 to 1820



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Ludwig van Beethoven Puzzle



**Time Period**

1770 to 1827

Legacy

Known as
“the bridge between
the classical and
romantic eras
of music”

Aesthetic

Passionate and
song-like melodies

Aesthetic

Expression of intense
and wide range of
human emotion

Technique

Flexible rhythms;
sudden changes in
meter and tempo

Technique

Repetition of pitch;
extreme dynamic
contrasts

Instrumentation

Use of trombones;
combination of vocal
and instrumental music

Famous Works

Symphony No. 5,
Moonlight Sonata,
Für Elise

Aesthetic

Evocative of nature,
literature, poetry,
and the super-natural



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