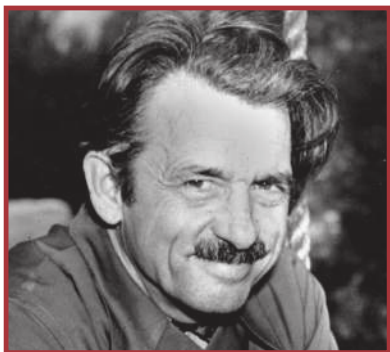




LOOK CLOSER:

The Sources of Country Music

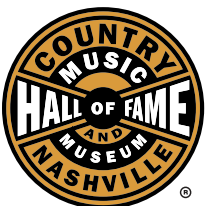


Thomas Hart Benton (1889–1975) was an American artist who painted everyday people in scenes of life in the United States. In 1973, the Country Music Foundation commissioned Benton to create a large mural illustrating country music's roots. Completed in 1975, *The Sources of Country Music* depicts the major musical and cultural traditions that helped shape the sound of country music. Benton died shortly after this painting was completed but before he could sign the artwork. For more information about *The Sources of Country Music* and Thomas Hart Benton, and to watch a video of Benton painting this piece, visit CountryMusicHallofFame.org/Benton.

Find *The Sources of Country Music* in the Hall of Fame Rotunda and answer the questions below.

Work with a friend or adult—just like many country musicians work together to create music.

- 1 What instruments do you see in this painting?
- 2 The people are all doing different things. What do you see them doing?
- 3 What modes of transportation do you see? Why do you think these would be in a painting about music?
- 4 Benton chose subjects related to the culture and history of country music and early twentieth century society. What do you see that shows that? Discuss your answer with a friend.
- 5 Some things have not changed! What do you see or hear in today's country music and its culture that is also a part of the Benton mural?



SUPPORTED BY



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