



## QUIZ SOLUTION

### **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OTTAVIANO, DISCOVERING THE ART OF 15TH CENTURY GUBBIO**



#### **THE MADONNA DEL BELVEDERE**

1. The figures with the halo are the sacred personages such as the Madonna, Saints and Angels. Those who haven't a halo are the mortal ones, in this case the donor of the painting and his wife.
2. The Angels behind the Madonna are playing a portative organ and a psaltery similar to today's accordion and harp. The Angels in the foreground are playing the rebec and the viella similar in shape to today's violin and mandolin.
3. Ottaviano Nelli made great use of gilding in his paintings not only for important details as sacred personages' halos, but also for decorative details in clothes and to enlighten the Angels' wings in the background. The abundant use of gilding was typical of the International Gothic painting and was a way to emphasize the donors' richness.



#### **THE STREET SHRINE IN VIA DANTE**

1. You can also find the Angel Musicians in the Madonna del Belvedere. In the shrine in via Dante it's possible to identify three musical instruments at least: the rebec and the viella in the upper part of the throne and the psaltery in the lower one.



#### **THE FRESCOES OF THE CHURCH OF ST. AGOSTINO**

1. Thanks to the presence of the sea and boats you can easily identify the scenes: "The Departure from Carthage" in the lunette of the left side of the apse and "The Arrival at Ostia" in the lunette of the apse' back wall, over the window.
2. Ottaviano Nelli, in accordance to a custom of 14<sup>th</sup> century painters, depicted his self portrait among the people of Gubbio with the purpose of highlighting his social status as established artist.
3. The Souls of the Damned are on the lower right of God the Judge; it's possible to identify them because of the tortures they're suffering by the demons.



#### **THE FRESCOES OF THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCESCO**

1. The kneeling figure in adoration in front of the stable, dressed in black with a white veil, represents the donors. In fact the frescoes were commissioned by a confraternity of devout women, Tertiary Franciscans.
2. In the scene there are a number of female figures: some are caring for the mother, they are carrying vessels, clothes and food, others are taking care of the new born child, Mary; aside a woman is spinning holding the spindle in her hand.
3. The female figures depicted at the base of the cycle of frescoes are the Caryatids, the statues used in ancient times to support the entablature of buildings such as temples. In this case Ottaviano Nelli chose monochrome paintings to resemble the statues, but, at the same time they are dressed according to the fashion of the day, looking like actual women. These figures, depicted from the rear, seem to support the weight of the scenes above.