This lecture draws on recent archaeological excavations in South Africa, East Africa, the Near East and Europe to examine the evolution of figurative representation and musical traditions. While modern human anatomy evolved in Africa, the earliest evidence for figurative art, musical instruments and other symbolic artifacts appears about 40,000 years ago in western Eurasia. This talk will present new archaeological data to help explain these observations, and will focus on continuing excavations in the Swabian Jura of southwestern Germany and the early examples of figurative art and musical instruments discovered at these UNESCO World Heritage sites.