



Magical Music



This project contains four suggestions for pieces of music to listen to, explore and use as a writing inspiration.

Musical Piece 1

Listen to Grieg's In the Hall of the Mountain King from the 'Peer Gynt Suite'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02b5bw1>

Grieg's 'Peer Gynt Suite' tells the story of a young boy – Peer Gynt, who falls in love with a girl but is not allowed to marry her. He runs away into the mountains but is captured by trolls who take him to their King. Peer Gynt tries to escape but is chased by the trolls and runs into the troll King but eventually gets away.

Listen out for: The strings that play the sounds of Peer tiptoeing and running to escape. The tiptoeing sound is an effect called pizzicato where string players pluck the strings of their instrument rather than use a bow.

Task: Use the music to write your own version of the story. Remember to include:

- The Hall of the Mountain King – i.e. his grand palace
- The Mountain King himself – i.e. a scary, ugly monster
- Peer Gynt running away down a twisty path



Musical Piece 2

Listen to Mason Bates' *A Bao A Qu* from his *Anthology of Fantastic Zoology*!

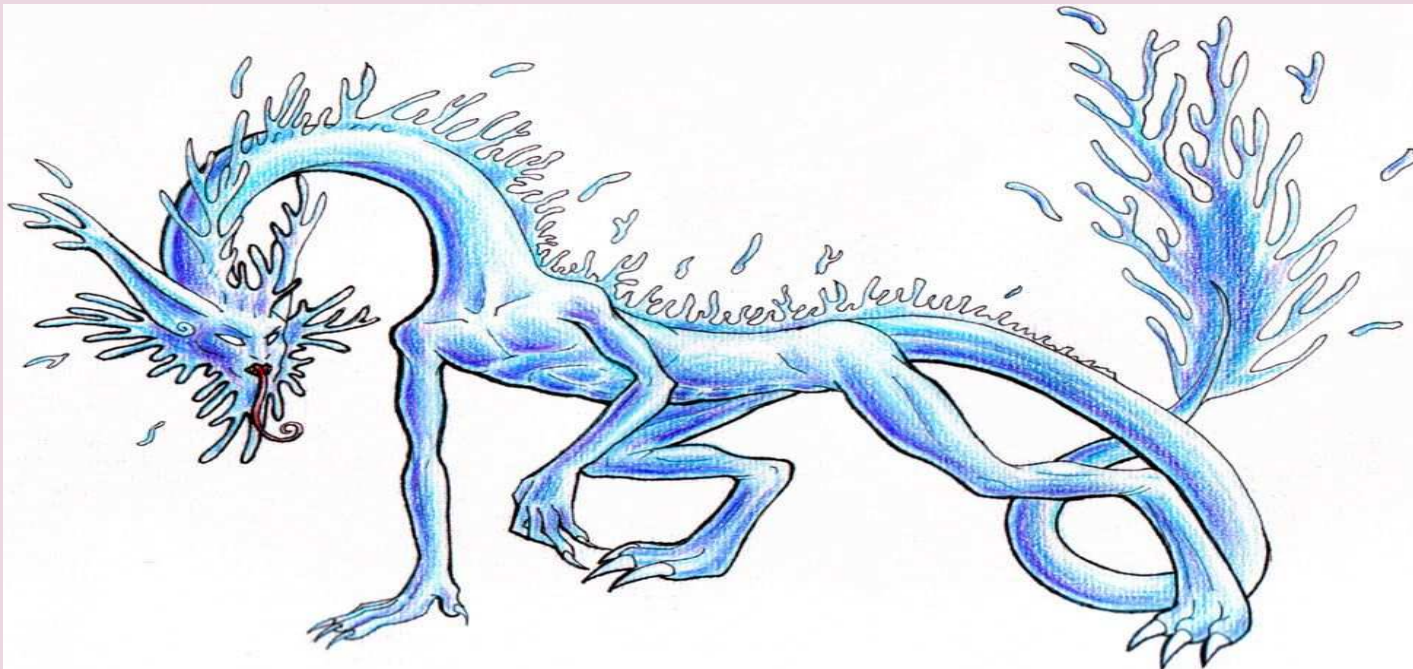
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05fz5zj>

Each of its eleven distinctive movements conjures up a different mythical creature from Jorge Luis Borges' *Book of Imaginary Beings*, including the mischievous Sprite and the tower-dwelling beast, A Bao A Qu.

The two movements show how music can conjure up creative ideas and powerful pictures in our imaginations.

Listen out for: The middle of *A Bao A Qu*, when the music starts winding itself back to the start. The piece is a musical palindrome, and just like a palindrome word is spelt the same forwards as it is backwards, the music sounds the same when played forwards or backwards!

Task: imagine your very own mythical creature. What does your character look like? How do they move? What does it do? What does it want?



Musical Piece 3

Listen to 'Mambo' from West Side Story

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03bvg37>

Written in 1957 for a musical re-telling of Romeo & Juliet. The story is set in New York and about rival gangs – the Jets and the Sharks. Much of the music is inspired by Central American (Latin) rhythms.

Listen out for: The percussion. Bernstein loved rhythm, and you can hear that influence in 'Mambo'. It's certainly a piece that jumps!

Task: What do you think is happening on stage during this piece of music? Write a description or even a playscript!



Musical Piece 4

Listen to The 'Habanera' from Act I and the 'Toreador Song' from Act II of 'Carmen' by Bizet

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03c0yv8>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03c0xq2>

Bizet finished his most famous and most popular piece of work, the opera 'Carmen', in 1874. The 'Habanera' from Act I and the 'Toreador Song' from Act II of 'Carmen' are now two of the best known of all operatic arias. That's a pretty big achievement for an opera that Bizet originally predicted would be "a definite and hopeless flop". As it turned out, he couldn't have been more wrong. The bold drama of the story-line and punchiness of Bizet's melodies have made it a lasting favourite with audiences. Its powerful story of love, betrayal and revenge continues to capture imaginations the world over, almost 150 years on.

Listen out for: Its Spanish-sounding tunes. This is particularly impressive when you remember that Bizet was French!

Task: Just using the two pieces of music, write character descriptions for Carmen (the Spanish lady) and Escamillo (the bull fighter). What do you think they look like? What are their personalities like?



Other Musical Ideas:

- Year 4 Music Lesson on BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z8nsm39>
- Research a favourite musician or performer, creating an artist profile complete with portrait sketch.
- Write the lyrics to your own song! Try to include two verses and a chorus. Bonus points for including some rhymes.
- Explore all musical terms: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zwxhfg8>
- Explore new styles of music by listening to this playlist for children concerts for kids from the Lincoln Centre: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3OaF3Z8KDw&list=PLj1GfJW4re9k9l9JGygT9JraaUsDilMF7>
- Learn a musical Theatre dance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF9Ub6mEzxo&list=PL0x74m7LL5fv1byOuFixcN487vPa7DY0F&index=9&t=0s>
- Listen and dance to some different genres of music. As you change between genres (e.g. Rock, Jazz, Hip Hop, Heavy Metal and Classical music), how does the way you move your body change? Have a dance together with your family to the beat of the music!
- Ask each family member what their favourite song is. Play the song. What genre of music does the songs belong to? How does each piece of music make you feel? Which genres of music were the most popular? Can you represent the results in a bar chart. You could ask family members to rank their favourite genres of music first.

The Science of Sound!

- Year 4 Science Lesson on Sound: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zb4jcmn>
- Science Volume investigation: Find something that makes a loud noise, like an alarm clock, or a noisy toy. Set it down at one end of a room and walk a few steps away. Does it sound as loud? Continue walking and stopping to listen to the sound. What happens to the sound the further you walk? Can you think of a way of making the sound quieter? <https://www.stem.org.uk/rxzb9>
- Science Sound investigation: Making sound shakers Collect some different containers with lids, make sure you cannot see through them. The small plastic containers from inside chocolate eggs work really well. Put different materials in the containers. (Stones, rice, sugar, paper clips etc.) How many shakers can you make? Do they all sound the same? Can you make a shaker that is difficult to recognise? Can you make loud and quiet sounds with them? For more ideas take a look at the full resources: [https:// bit.ly/3berawB](https://bit.ly/3berawB)

Reading

This week, why not try reading a biography of a famous musician or composer? Or a story about a fictional music creator?

Writing

In addition to the challenges in this project, there are daily English lessons on BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy and sentence stacking on Jane Considine's YouTube channel. There will also be spelling and grammar challenges set on purple mash. There is also a super booklet of activities around a story here:

<https://www.talk4writing.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Y4-Mission2.pdf>

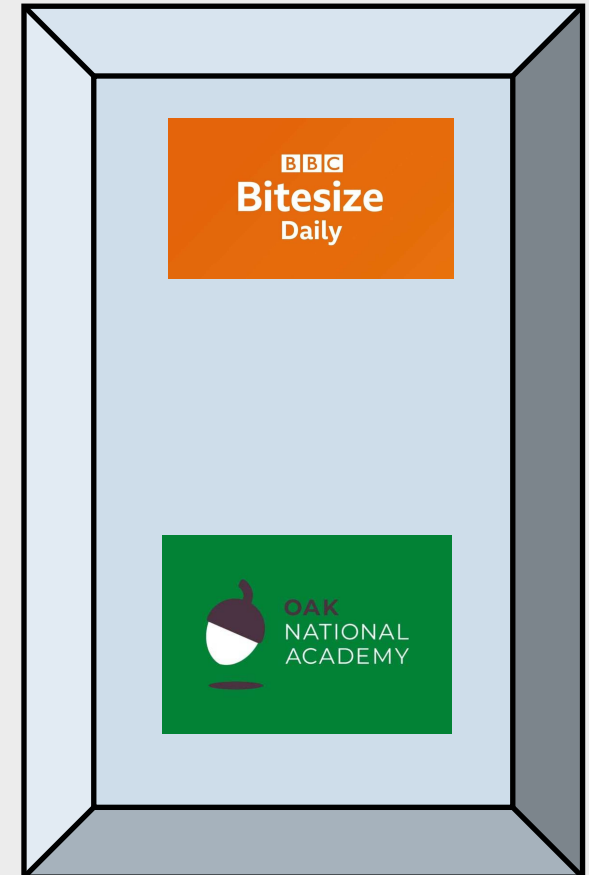
You could even listen to 'spy music' to inspire you as you write!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAYhNHhxNOA>

Maths

Maths lessons in school continue to be based around White Rose Maths. The worksheets for these lessons are now on our website.

There are also good video maths lessons available on BBC bitesize and Oak Academy.

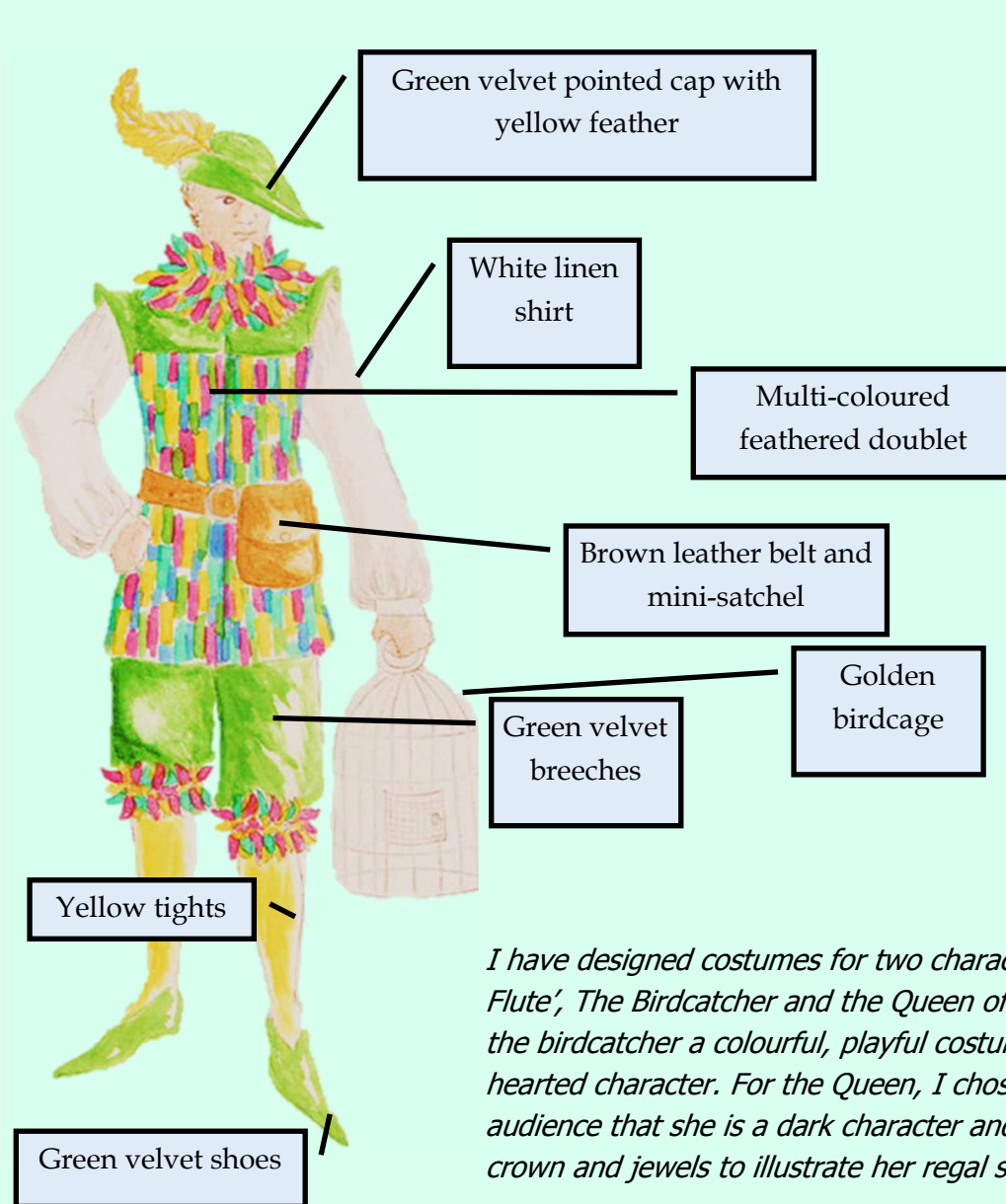




Art/ DT Challenge—Costumes!



In musical performances, whether it is a performance by a band or artist or a stage show such as a musical or opera, the performers will wear costumes to reflect the music they are playing. This may be to show their character or to show off their style. Pick a character from a musical show or a favourite performer and design a costume for them. Make sure you label this with materials and write a few sentences to explain your choices. If you are feeling extra inspired (and you have the resources at home) you could always try making the costume for yourself or a toy!



I have designed costumes for two characters from 'The Magic Flute', The Birdcatcher and the Queen of the Night. I have given the birdcatcher a colourful, playful costume to reflect his light-hearted character. For the Queen, I chose black to show the audience that she is a dark character and a ballgown style, crown and jewels to illustrate her regal status.



Additional Art Challenge

Many artists have been inspired by music in their work.

Listen to a piece of classical or instrumental musical. Close your eyes and think what the music makes you imagine. Do you see colours? Shapes? Plants? Animals? People? What are they doing? What happens as the music changes? Draw, paint or create the pictures from your head.

<https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/best-classical-music-for-kids/>

