



Composing your own piece of programme music

(You need to work in small groups for this activity)

The aim of this activity is to work in small groups to compose a short piece of programme music that has been inspired by a picture. Your music will tell the story of the picture and last no longer than two minutes.

- 1. Find a picture** that you like (from a book, magazine, newspaper, comic etc) **that tells a story.**



- 2.** In your groups **discuss the picture:**
- * What is interesting about it?
 - * How does the picture make you feel?
 - * What story is the picture telling you?

- 3.** Discuss what instruments you have available to you and **who is going to play what:**
- * Singing
 - * Do any of your group play an instrument?
 - * Body percussion
 - * Are there any percussion instruments you can use?

- 4.** In your groups work out the **story of your picture.** Make sure it has a beginning, middle and end. Decide on a **title** for your composition.

- 5. Start making music!** Experiment with your ideas to see what fits best with the picture:
- * Does your picture have people or animals in it? Can each character have its own theme tune or rhythm?
 - * What sound effects can your instruments make?
 - * Is your picture/story happy or sad? Fast or slow?
 - * What dynamics will you use? Will these change?
 - * Who in your group is playing which parts. Will there be solos as well as all playing together?



- 6. Write your ideas down.** It is important that the group is able to understand what you have written.
- * You can use musical notation
 - * You can use symbols and graphs
 - * You can write down what you want to happen or even draw pictures
 - * You can use a combination of all these methods

- 7. Practise** your piece of music. Decide in what order you are going to stand or sit.



- 8. Perform** to your class. Introduce your composition by showing the picture to the class and telling them what the piece of music is called.