

Stories in Music



Year 5

Summer 1

What should I already know?

- Ballet, Opera, Musicals, Films, Songs and instrumental music can be used to tell a story
- Music has been used throughout history to entertain
- There are different genres of music
- Music from different historical periods may use different instruments from modern music
- Music is a performing art

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- Composers use melodies to represent characters and tell stories
- Particular instruments can be used to represent characters in a story
- I can name some different genres of music such as opera and ballet
- I can name some famous historical pieces and their composers
- I can recognise the timbres of a range of orchestral instruments

Vocabulary

ballet	a form of theatre where the story is danced to music and no words or singing take place
opera	a form of theatre which is acted out, with most of the words sung by the characters
musical	a form of theatre which is acted out and dialogue is spoken, but songs are inserted in the action to help the story along
theme	a melody which stands for a character or feeling e.g. love, hate, anger
aria	a song (often a solo) sung by a character in an opera
timbre	the distinctive sound of an instrument or voice
composer	the person who writes the music (and sometimes lyrics) of a song, instrumental piece, ballet, opera or musical
chorus	The singers or dancers who do not have main roles but support the main characters in crowd scenes



'The Nutcracker' is another ballet by Tchaikovsky (the composer of 'Swan Lake'). In the story, there are dances by some of the toys and characters from different countries.

Listen to the dance of the sugar plum fairy:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz_f9B4pPtg

Which instrument plays the main melody?

How is the sound made on this instrument?



One of Mozart's operas is 'The Magic Flute' which is set in ancient Egypt. The lead character is Tamino who has the magic flute in question. One of the most stunning parts of the opera is when the Queen of the Night sings. Her aria (song) is extremely high pitched. Another character is the bird catcher, Papageno who has a comedy role to lighten the atmosphere.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6S9cQNbENI>

Which instrument does Papageno play?

Andrew Lloyd Webber is one of the most famous composers of musicals in the world. Can you find out the names of some of his musicals?

If you have seen or heard any of them, which is your favourite and why?