



MUSICAL STORIES

Programme

*The following pieces –(and more!) – will be performed at the
Cork Pops Orchestra Concerts for Schools 2024*

The Toreador's March - George Bizet

Anvil Chorus – Giuseppe Verdi

First Movt. Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (excerpt) - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The Hymn theme from Jupiter, from The Planets - Gustav Holst

When You Wish Upon a Star - Leigh Harline & Ned Washington

The Love Theme from Romeo & Juliet - Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky

Excerpts from Carnival of the Animals - Camille Saint-Saens

(Tortoises; The Elephant; The Swan)

The Sorcerer's Apprentice ('Broom Theme') - Paul Dukas

See below for website links, which I hope will be useful in preparing for the concert, or re-visiting the music afterwards.

There is a wide range of material here for the teacher to peruse. I will leave it up to your own ingenuity to adapt as appropriate to the age of the class.

The online video of Marian Ingoldsby's 'Ivan Biddycup's Ballet' (a story from Pat Ingoldsby's 'Zany Tales') can be enjoyed simply as a musical story for primary school pupils, - the composition can also be analysed by post-primary music students. I highly recommend the Youtube video of the full version of Paul Dukas' The Sorcerer's Apprentice, for the excellent close up shots of the orchestral instruments. I get very excited by the cross-curricular

possibilities in exploring the themes in the concert. Themes that struck me when putting the programme together :

Greek and Roman Mythology

The Solar System

Pythagoras' Theories of Music and the Spheres

(Consonance & Dissonance; Harmony & Disharmony)

Musical composition and Musical arrangements

Jimmy Brockie will demonstrate his work as an arranger and music producer, and the different roles to expect in the music industry.

Shakespeare in Music (Tchaikovsky; Bernstein; Verdi)

Words & Music

In the website links, you will find an interesting section on the new verses by author Michael Murpurgo for the recording by the Kanneh-Mason family and friends of Saint-Saens 'Carnival of the Animals'; also links to the BBC Prom concert where the new version was performed; and a link to the BBC webpage that includes animal mask-making ideas. Performance 5 of our online classroom resources 'A Musical Tapestry' features GMC rapping over Pachelbel's Canon.

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some websites relating to the pieces to be performed on the concert

A special Online-only feature is a video recording of **Marian Ingoldsby's** composition, written for the Cork Pops Orchestra, based on a children's story called '**Ivan Biddycup's Ballet**' by **Pat Ingoldsby** - from his collection of **Zany Tales**. (By kind permission of the author)

<https://vimeo.com/880639127/2670ca923c>

(also available on the Cork Pops Orchestra website)

Performance 4 of our online resource, '**A Musical Tapestry**', features music by George Bizet, and in the 'introduction' the concepts of polyphonic, monophonic, and homophonic music; timbre in percussion instruments; tuned and untuned percussion. The 'performance 4' video shows close ups of the percussion instruments providing the rhythm, the wind and brass instruments, and the strings providing both rhythmic and harmonic accompaniment.

<https://corkpops.ie/performances/performance-4/>

Performance 5 of our online resource, 'A Musical Tapestry', features Pachelbel's Canon, followed at 3'08" by Pachelbel Rap, produced and performed by GMC (Garry McCarthy) founder/director of the Kabin Studio, with the graphic score of the backing track. The 'performance 5' video is preceded by an introduction which makes the connection between the baroque piece by the 17th century composer, Pachelbel, and GMC's 21st century rapping. It also introduces the stringed instruments of the orchestra.

<https://corkpops.ie/performances/performance-5/>

Excerpts from Carnival of the Animals Camille Saint-Saens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vKtJ2bOwyA>

Children's author, Michael Murpurgo, speaks about his new poems for the 2021 CD release / 're-make' of 'Carnival of the Animals with the very talented Kanneh-Mason family and friends.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/proms/extra/BTtgIGW8sa/the-carnival-of-the-animals>

BBC programme notes for the Kanneh-Mason Family Prom 2021 'Carnival of the Animals.' Saint-Saëns composed this work in February 1886. While the 14-movement suite had some private performances for musicians, it was never published or performed during the composer's lifetime, as he regarded the piece as light entertainment that didn't fit with his reputation as a serious musician. He stipulated in his will that the work could be published after his death. It was premiered in February 1922 (the year after Saint-Saëns' death) in Paris with Gabriel Pierné conducting, where it was received rapturously and quickly became one of Saint-Saëns' most popular works.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5wckWFqp8gtk0XdjK3tIRqc/create-an-animal-mask-with-ricky-martin-art-ninja>

Some mask-making ideas for primary school pupils

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VigoDtL-91A>

Film of the BBC Proms 2021 – **Carnival of the Animals** – narrated by EM Williams; original poems read by Michael Murpurgo; music by the French composer, **Camille Saint-Saens**.

No.3 Tortoises – 11.45 – 16.10

No.4 The Elephant – 16.10 – 19.16

No.8 The Swan – 43.50 – 48.15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dep1ZpMa3nM>

'cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason performing a short piece at the BBC Proms with the Chineke! Orchestra

<https://www.chineke.org/chineke-orchestra/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPeCT2y6yAc>

A vintage recording of the original poems in English by Ogden Nash, for Saint-Saens The Carnival of Animals, narrated by the playwright and actor Noel Coward.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuQM8SLatK4>

The Carnival of Animals, with Ogden Nash's verses narrated by a variety of well-known actors, and conducted by film-composer Lalo Schifrin.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice ('Broom Theme') Paul Dukas

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

Orchestre Philharmonie de Radio France - really great close-ups of all the orchestral instruments in this full-length performance of **Paul Dukas' The Sorcerer's Apprentice**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rrm8usaH0sM>

The Sorcerer's Apprentice 1940 Fantasia (Disney Studio) – a short excerpt, that leads into the ***'broom' theme on the bassoon**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rzyuY8-Ao8>

A behind the scenes commentary/trailer on the 2010 re-make of the original Disney classic Fantasia. Directed by Jon Turteltaub and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer. Titled The Sorcerer's Apprentice, it featured Nicolas Cage as Balthazar Blake, a master sorcerer in modern-day Manhattan trying to defend the city from his arch-nemesis, Maxim Horvath, played by Alfred Molina. In this clip they discuss the classic 'Broom' scene.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipWuz6eZSI4>

In this clip of the **'Broom' scene** you can hear how Paul Dukas' original score has been arranged for the film soundtrack, by composer/arranger Trevor Rabin.

<https://www.trevorrabinmusic.com/biography>

Grammy-award winning composer/arranger/music-producer, with a classical and rock music background.

When You Wish Upon a Star Leigh Harline & Ned Washington

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pguMUFyJ3_U

Cliff Edwards (as Jiminy Cricket) singing **When You Wish Upon a Star** in the 1940 original Disney film **'Pinocchio'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhwT2jn9gHQ>

New arrangement of **When You Wish Upon a Star** for Disney 100 in 2023 – Sara Bareilles, who wrote the musical **'Waitress'**.

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

Keith Hanley has been writing and producing his own material – here is his **'Pinocchio'**

<https://www.hotpress.com/music/hanley-announces-debut-single-pinocchio-23018891>

Follow Keith on Instagram @hanley_official ; on TikTok @hanleyofficial

The Love Theme from Romeo & Juliet Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2l8llogGKto>

Tchaikovsky – **The Love Theme from Romeo & Juliet** (based on Shakespeare's play)

The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Gustavo Dudamel (who conducted the film score for the Spielberg 2021 re-make of West Side Story, with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.). West Side Story is based on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, but the location is moved from medieval Verona to 1950s New York city, with the feud being between the Jets and the Sharks gangs, instead of the Montague and the Capulet families.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5GJLwWiYSg>

West Side Story (Steven Spielberg 2021 – Official Trailer. – see credits in the information panel on the different music roles – arranger; music supervisor; executive music producer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Af3L9btBhuQ>

Trailer for the original 1961 film (which also starred Rita Moreno – who had a role in the 2021 Spielberg re-make.)

The Toreador's March - George Bizet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFs1fDOmHVw>

Toreador's March – from the Carmen Suite No.1 - arranged from George Bizet's famous opera 'Carmen' by his friend, Ernest Guiraud. 'Les Toreadors' is taken from the Prelude to Act 1, and the bullfighter's entrance in Act 2. The Suite No.1 is comprised of six excerpts. Bizet (1838 – 1875), like Mozart, died in his thirties.

Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901) lived for half a century longer. He died aged 88, having achieved great fame and success from his 26 operas. In his late 70s, he wrote his final opera, Falstaff, based on Shakespeare's plays 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' and 'Henry IV'. Verdi described Shakespeare as 'the great searcher of the human heart.' He was Verdi's literary hero.

Anvil Chorus – Giuseppe Verdi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHrA1sRoTxM>

*Verdi's **Anvil Chorus** from his opera Il Trovatore (1853).

This chorus leads us to the story of Pythagoras and his theories of 'Music and the Spheres.' Everything we know about Pythagoras is from the writings of other philosophers and writers. He was an early advocate of the healing power of music. So much was written about him, that he achieved an almost god-like status. While we could describe him as being the father of music theory, there were others before him. He was born in ancient Greece, and travelled a lot, developing a kind of cult following during his time in Southern Italy.

The story goes that he was passing a forge one day, and noticed a pattern between the sound of a 12lb hammer hitting the anvil, and a 6lb hammer on the same anvil. The ratio was 2 : 1. He allegedly went home and tried this mathematical ratio on a length of string. The result was his discovery of 'perfect intervals' – the ratio of 2 : 1 produced an octave; 3 : 2 a fifth; 4 : 3 a fourth. So, he probably thought, why couldn't this ratio theory apply to the relationship between the sun, moon, and the planets.

He discovered the concept of Consonance and Dissonance; Harmony and Disharmony. His theories of tuning scales lost favour with musicians around the 16th century, when the theory of 'equal temperament', (agreeing a consistent distance between intervals in all keys by dividing the octave into 12 semitones equal in size), was adopted. (For a further explanation..)

<https://producerhive.com/music-theory/what-is-equal-temperament/>

Pythagoras had a huge influence on scientists and thinkers in all sorts of areas, for example, Johannes Kepler (1571 – 1630) and his work on the ratio of the planets to one another and to the sun.

NASA scientists report on the sounds they pick up in space and/or the absence of sound from the black holes in space. Modern composers are inspired by imagining dissonances and consonances, disharmony and harmony. Music was once considered to be a science as well as an art. The ideas of cosmic harmony from Ancient Greece were almost forgotten in the Middle Ages, but were revived in the Renaissance.

Ancient Greece contributed a lot to Western civilisation as we know it – concepts like democracy; the theatre; architectural styles; the alphabet; the Olympic games; and more. And, of course, Ancient Greece greatly influenced Ancient Rome.

Greek and Roman mythology still influences so much story-telling, film-making, and gaming nowadays. The enduring appeal of Greek mythology lies in its ability to explore universal themes such as love; jealousy; heroism, and the struggle between good and evil.

Jupiter was one of the main gods in Roman mythology, the equivalent of Zeus from Greek mythology. We may meet Orpheus, the brother of Zeus, who managed to escape from the underworld, because Hades, the ruler of the underworld was very taken by Orpheus' playing on the Lyre. (The god, Apollo, gave Orpheus his first lyre, but that is a whole other story.)

First Movt. Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (excerpt) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeaQ595tzxQ>

Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik – recording with score

Mozart (1756 – 1791) wrote his final symphony No.41 in 1788. It was given the title 'Jupiter' by his promoter, Johann Peter Solomon, evoking the grandeur and vastness of Jupiter, the Roman God of the Skies. Mozart is recognised as one of the great geniuses of Western Art Music, and the 'Jupiter' is recognised as the pinnacle of his symphonic writing. His last three symphonies – No.39 in Eb; No.40 in G minor; and the C major 'Jupiter' No.41 were a;; written in rapid succession, in the summer of 1788.

On the concert we will play an excerpt from Eine Kleine Nachtmusik. Written in 1788 for an outdoor performance or celebratory occasion, it remains one of his most popular pieces. The full title of this piece is Serenade No. 13 in G major K.525. The 'K' number refers to the numbers given by Ludwig Ritter von Köchel, who catalogued Mozart's work in the order in which they were written. (Sometimes, it is publishers who apply 'Opus' numbers according to the order in which the works are published.) 'Opus' is the Italian word for 'Work'. This practice began in the 17th century. A child prodigy, Mozart wrote his first symphony when he was 8 years old (K.16) and his first opera at the age of 12 (K.50).

The Hymn theme from Jupiter, from The Planets Gustav Holst

This 'hymn' theme comes from the stately middle section of Jupiter, and was first called 'Thaxted', after the English village in which Holst lived from 1917 -1925. Then it was set to the words of 'I vow to thee, my country' – a patriot poem by Cecil Spring Rice. The tune was adapted as the anthem 'A World in Union' for the Rugby World Cup, by Charlie Skarbek, singer, music-producer, composer and lyricist. It was first performed and recorded for the 1991 tournament.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUM_zT3YKHs

Performance of Jupiter from The Planets by Gustav Holst at the BBC Proms. The 'hymn' theme comes in at 2'50".

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ux_Ok1dc-jw

World in Union Rugby Anthem – 1995 in South Africa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hEq6q3vKbY>

A very different arrangement of the same anthem from 2023 France.

<https://blog.hall-up.com/arranger-vs-composer/>

Composer / Arranger - what is the difference?

<https://robertabatemusic.com/composer-vs-arranger/>

Differing roles in the music industry – composer, arranger, producer.

Gustav Holst started working on The Planets in 1914, alongside his work as a teacher in St. Paul's School in London, often composing at weekends and holidays in the school's soundproof music room. It took him over three years to complete it, and it was first performed in 1920.

Jupiter (the 'hymn theme' from this movement will be played on the concert) is the fifth planet from the Sun and the largest planet of the Solar System. It is the oldest planet of the Solar System, thus it was the first to take shape out of the remains of the solar nebula. Holst gave his own nicknames to each planet (he was more astrologist than astronomer). He called Jupiter 'The Bringer of Jollity.' Pluto hadn't been discovered when Holst wrote the Planets in 1917. The English composer, Colin Matthews added a Pluto movement in 1930. When Pluto was discovered it became one of the 9 planets recognised in the solar system – Mercury (1st planet from the sun); Venus (2nd – the hottest and very bright); Earth (the '3rd rock from the sun' Holst didn't include a movement to represent Earth); Mars (the 4th - the dusty planet); Jupiter (the 5th and largest); Saturn (6th and very unique with its icy rings); Uranus (7th – only discovered in 1781 by Sir William Herschel); and Neptune (8th – discovered in 1846 by John Couch Adams). Pluto was discovered in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh, and believed to be the 9th planet, but in 2006 Pluto was demoted to 'dwarf planet' status.

As the fourth brightest object in the sky, **Jupiter** was observed since ancient times and thus no one can be credited for its discovery. However, the first telescopic observations were conducted by Galileo Galilei in 1609 and in 1610 Galileo also discovered the major moons of Jupiter, but of course not the smaller ones.

Since many cultures observed Jupiter, they all gave it different names but the Roman name remained used in the majority of cultures. Jupiter is named after the principal Roman god, the equivalent of the Greek god Zeus.

Mars (named by Holst as 'The Bringer of War') from *The Planets* inspired John Williams' Imperial March from *Star Wars*. Hans Zimmer was sued by the Holst Foundation for music in *Gladiator* that they deemed to be plagiarising Holst's Mars.