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Composers of music often begin with short, simple ideas and make interesting music with them. As you listen, sing, play or compose your own music, you will find that even short pieces of music can have a lot of interesting things happening.

Listening and responding

1. Showing sounds as drawings

Think about how sounds can be shown as drawings.

Show sounds as drawings here.



High and low sounds	
Sounds that get louder	
A flowing sound	
The sound of a motor or engine	
A sound that echoes or repeats	

What kind of sounds could these drawings represent?

Drawings	Sounds
↘ → ↗ → ↘ →	
● ○ ● ○ ● ○	
(((○)))	

Drawing and reading music

2. Listening to short pieces of music

Listen to the three short pieces of music. Draw the sounds that the music makes. Your drawing should show something about what you hear.

1

2

3

How did you show the music in your drawing? Did you make up a special key to show differences between music that was high pitched or low pitched, music that had a tinkly sound or a deep thud?



About the music

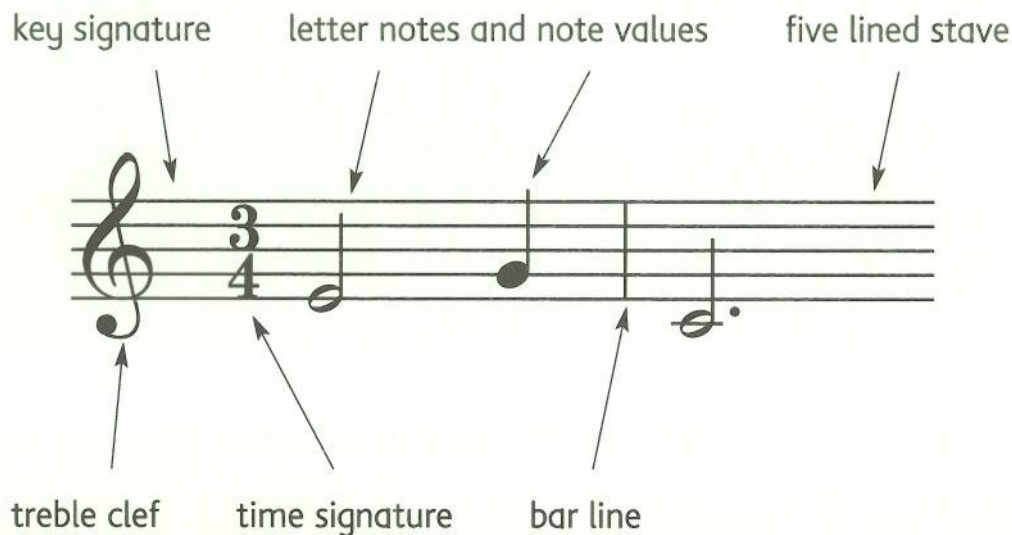
These three excerpts are from longer pieces by Irish composers. The first one is called *Dekatriad*. It is a piece for strings, composed by Raymond Deane in 1995. The second piece of music for flute is called *Skyshapes* and was composed by Eibhlís Farrell in 1994. Ian Wilson composed the last piece of music for clarinet, violin, cello and piano in 1992 and called it *Timelessly this*.



Did you know?

Music that is written down on five lines with notes and clefs is called **standard notation**.

What to look for in standard notation



In **standard notation** we can tell the **key signature** (how to find *doh*), the **time signature** (how many beats in a bar), the range of notes from the clef, whether the notes are high or low, and how long they should be sounded.

The **treble clef** tells us where to find the notes on an instrument or when singing, and the names of the notes on the lines and spaces.

- The notes in the music are **E**, **G** and **C**.
- The **key signature** is C major as there are no sharps or flats, and **C** is *doh*.
- The **time signature** is $\frac{3}{4}$, meaning three crotchet beats in a bar.
- We can see that there is a white note, called a **minim**, which gets two beats, beside a crotchet, which gets one beat, so that makes three beats in a bar.
- In the next bar there is a **dotted minim** which gets three beats.

Musical sounds that are shown as small pictures or symbols is called **graphic notation**.



Performing

3. Make music with your voice as you sing this song as a round.

Make new friends

②

Make new friends, but keep — the — old. —

③

One is sil - ver and the

④

oth - er gold.

4. Draw arrows to show the key signature and time signature in the music here.



The **key signature** shows two sharps, which tells us that the tune is in **D major** and **D** is *doh*.

The **time signature** is $\frac{4}{4}$ or four crotchet beats in a bar.

How many bars are in the song *Make new friends*?

5. Here are all the notes in a scale in the key of D major.

D major scale

D E F# G A B C# D

Solfa: d e f g a b c d'

6. Sing another round.

Let us endeavour

Let us en - deav - our To show that when - ev - er We

join in a song We can keep time to - geth - er.

7. Can you find the **key signature** and **time signature** here?

- There is one sharp, so the key signature is **G** major and **G** is *doh*.
- The time signature is $\frac{6}{8}$ which means six quaver beats in a bar.

8. Here are all the notes in a scale in the key of G major.

G major scale

Solfa: *d r m f s l t d'*

Can you play the scale on chime bars or on another instrument?

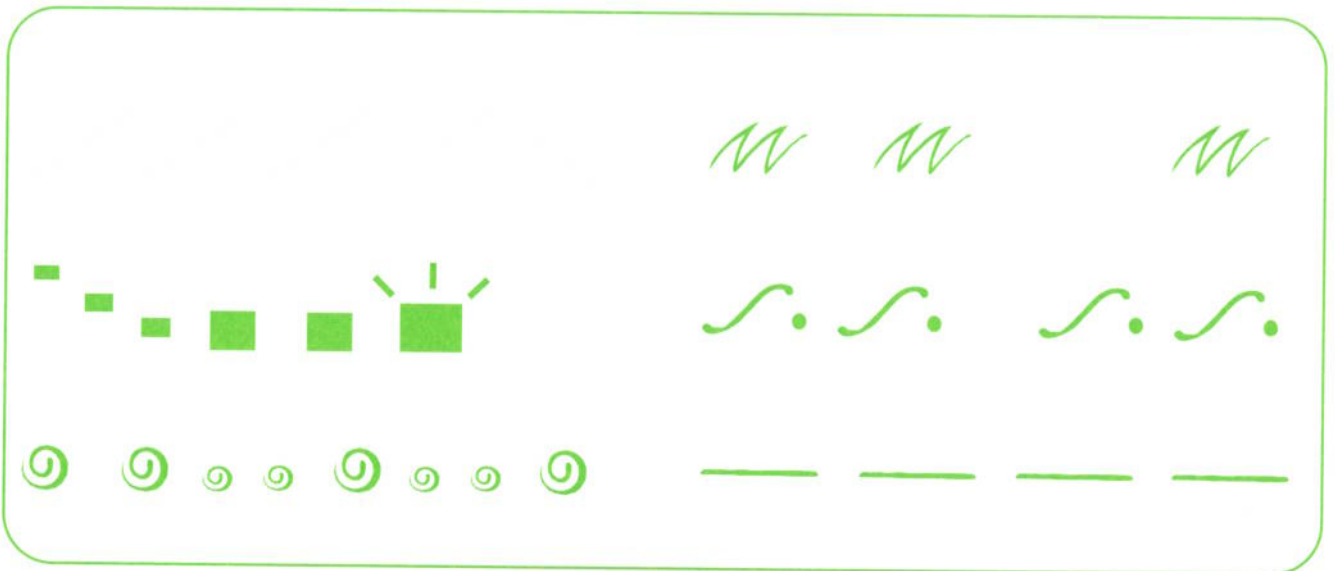


Composing

9. Vocal sound exploration

Can you think of some musical ideas to match the drawings of music (graphic notation) below?

First try to use your voice only, and see if you can make some music with your ideas. Write down all your musical ideas to make a score.



Try using the same score to play the music with instruments.

Draw your version here and explain what you did.

Draw	Write