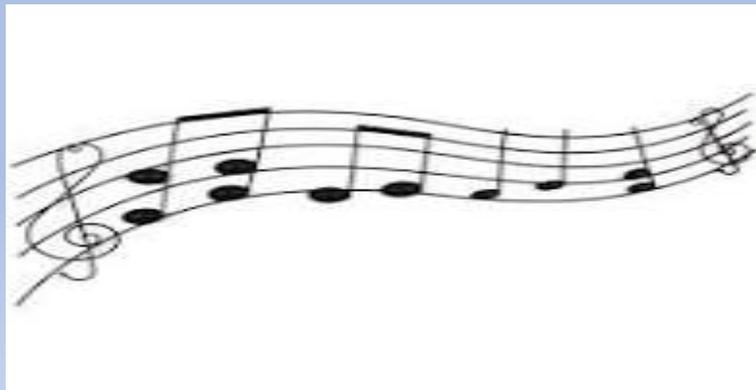


Music: Classical Composers



Composer: Ralph Vaughan Williams
Music: The Lark Ascending

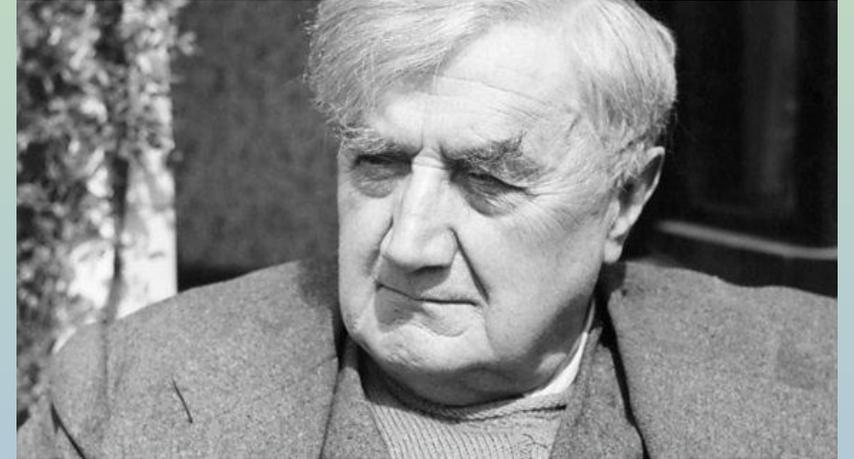


LO: I can listen to and reflect
on an orchestral piece of
music.

I can use musical language to
describe a piece of music.

The Composer – Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 -1958)

He was an English composer.



He played the piano and violin. From the age of 5 he knew he wanted to compose his own music.

The music – The Lark Ascending

It was written in 1914 and inspired by a poem of the same name by George Meredith. Vaughan Williams began composing this music just before the start of the First World War.

It describes a lark flying, gliding and soaring through the air, looking down at the fields below.

This music has previously been voted the nation's favourite piece by radio audiences.

Now listen to the piece of music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLhpkvQLDt0>

You may want to close your eyes and imagine the lark flying above fields whilst you listen to the music.



Reflect

1. Did you like the music?
2. How did the music make you feel?
3. If you could float off anywhere, where would you go?
4. What would you see down below?

Draw or paint a picture, or write a poem, that shows what you see in your mind when you listen to the music. You could use these ideas to make a list to help you before you start:

1. 1 colour - what colour does the music make you think of?
2. 1 emotion - how does the music make you feel?
3. 1 movement word – describe how the lark travels.
4. 1 place – where is the lark flying over?
5. 1 thing – what can the lark see from the sky?

Pitch, tempo, dynamics and texture

Listen to part of or all of the piece of music again. What do you notice about the pitch, tempo and dynamics?

Write a short paragraph to describe these elements of the music. Use the word bank to help you. Notice when the composer uses texture in the music. Can you hear more than one instrument being played. What effect does this have?

Word Bank

Pitch: how high or low the music is

Tempo: the speed of the music

Dynamics: how loud or quiet a piece of music is

Crescendo: getting gradually louder

Diminuendo: getting gradually quieter

Texture: layers of sounds to create a mood or effect
(more than one instrument playing together)