

WIGMORE HALL
Learning

VAN KUIJK STRING QUARTET



KS3 SCHOOLS CONCERT
TEACHERS' RESOURCE PACK
AUTUMN 2016



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Wigmore Hall's Schools Programme is supported by John Lyon's Charity.

INTRODUCTION

This pack is designed to help you and your class prepare for the Van Kuijk String Quartet concert at Wigmore Hall.

During the concert we will explore the following quartets:

- HAYDN String Quartet Op 76 No 4 "Sunrise" (mvt 1)
- SMETANA String Quartet No 1 "From my life"
- RAVEL String Quartet in F (mvt 2)

THE QUARTET

Joining the BBC New Generation Artists scheme this season, the Van Kuijk Quartet's international accolades include the First Prize (The Harry M Weinrebe Prize) as well as the prizes for the best interpretations of Beethoven and Haydn quartets at the 2015 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition, First and Audience prizes at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition, as well as becoming laureates of the Aix-en-Provence Festival Academy. It also joins the ECHO Rising Stars roster for the 2017/18 season.

Already an established presence around Europe, it has appeared at the Tivoli Concert Series Denmark, and the Cheltenham, Heidelberger Frühling, Verbier, Aix-en-Provence and Stavanger festivals, while forthcoming appearances include those at the Auditorium du Louvre Paris, Tonhalle Zurich and Musikverein Vienna.

The Van Kuijk Quartet is in residence at ProQuartet, Paris, where the players study with members of the Alban Berg, Artemis and Hagen quartets. It also participates in international academies in Verbier and Aix-en-Provence, the McGill International String Quartet Academy Montreal, with Michael Tree and André Roy and joined the 58th Jeunesses Musicales International Chamber Music Course Weikersheim, working with the Vogler Quartet and Heime Müller.



RACHEL LEACH

COMPOSER / ANIMATEUR / PRESENTER



Rachel Leach was born in Sheffield. She studied composition with Simon Bainbridge, Robert Saxton and Louis Andreissen. Her music has been recorded by NMC and published by Faber. She has won several awards, including the RPS award for best education project 2009 for *One Day, Two Dawns* with ETO.

Rachel has worked within the education departments of most of the UK's orchestras and opera companies. The majority of her work is for the London Symphony Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Rachel has written well over twenty pieces for LSO Discovery and fifteen community operas, including seven for ETO.

Alongside this she is increasingly in demand as a concert presenter. She is the presenter of the LSO St Lukes lunchtime concert series and regularly presents children's concerts and pre-concert events for LSO, LPO, BBC Proms, RCM & Wigmore Hall.

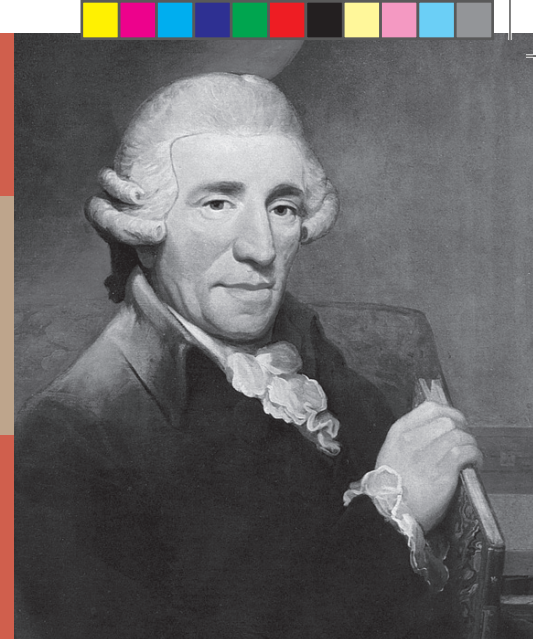
In Spring 2013 Rachel was awarded Honorary Membership of the RCM in recognition of her education work.

THE MUSIC

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN (1732 – 1809)

Haydn was born in Austria in 1732. His extraordinary musical talent was discovered at the age of 6 and he spent the rest of his childhood living and studying at a prestigious music school in Vienna. At 16, after being expelled for bad behaviour, he began a trail of increasingly lucrative jobs leading up to his appointment as Music Master with the immensely wealthy Esterhazy family - a post he held for most of his adult life.

Whilst working within the Esterhazy's estate Haydn had access to the best musicians and was able to experiment and innovate. Gradually he re-invented every musical structure creating the rules of harmony that define the Classical period. He is now thought of as the father of the symphony and, with over 60 works, the father of the string quartet.

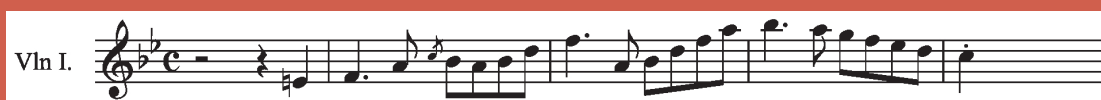


THE MUSIC

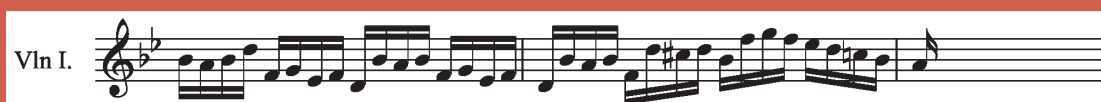
STRING QUARTET OP 76 NO 4 'SUNRISE'

Op 76 is a collection of 6 string quartets written around 1797. It is the last complete set of quartets that Haydn wrote. After several years away from the Esterhazy's and with newfound fame across Europe he was finally free to write exactly the music he wanted with no restrictions. Therefore Haydn sticks closely to the structures and harmonic rules of his earlier pieces but manages to create his most ambitious chamber works to date.

MOVEMENT 1 is in sonata form and was given the nickname "Sunrise" because of the opening rising violin theme -



Later, Haydn turns his 'Sunrise' theme upside down -



.... And towards the end he passes it amongst the whole quartet.



QUICK COMPOSING TASK

- Create a simple rising theme to describe sunrise
- Create another theme that is contrasting in every way
- Combine these themes to create a middle section
- Structure your themes as follows -

THE MUSIC

SUNRISE	CONTRASTING THEME	SUNRISE AND CONTRASTING THEME	SUNRISE	CONTRASTING THEME
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This is SONATA FORM

SONATA FORM

EXPOSITION

1st Subject in the home key
(sunrise)

2nd Subject in a related key
(contrasting theme)

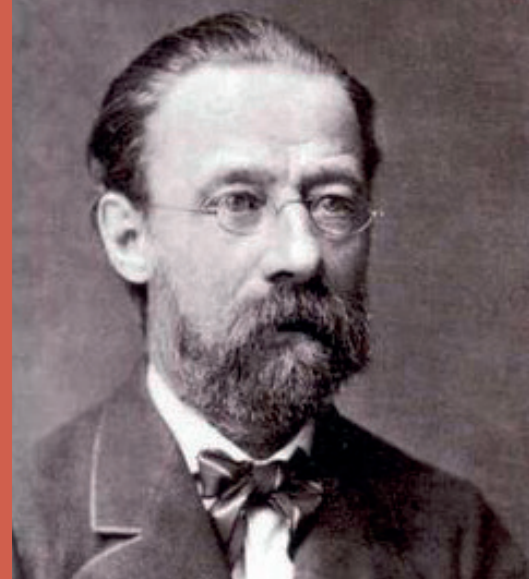
DEVELOPMENT

Both subjects are developed in a variety of ways. The music takes a complex journey through related keys (both)

RECAPITULATION

A return to the opening with both 1st and 2nd Subjects presented in the home key (sunrise – contrasting theme)

THE MUSIC



BEDRICH SMETANA (1824 - 1884)

Smetana was born near Prague in what's now called the Czech Republic in 1824. He was incredibly musically gifted as a small boy and played in a string quartet from the age of 6. His tuition however was patchy with his family refusing to believe that he could make a career from music. When he decided to become a composer his father was supportive but unable to help financially and so several years of struggle began. His first pieces were mostly for piano and had a very 'Bohemian' feel to them but he had a difficult time finding success.

In 1863 aged nearly 40 he had his big breakthrough with an opera called *The Bartered Bride* and from then on he was known as the father of Czech music. In 1874 he decided to look back on his life and came up with the unique idea of writing a string quartet describing the main events of his career. He called the quartet 'From my life'.

THE MUSIC

STRING QUARTET NO 1 'FROM MY LIFE'

Smetana uses the classic four movement shape as devised by Haydn but adds a story to each section as follows –

MVT 1: ALLEGRO VIVO APPASSIONATO

Youthful excitement and yearning for the future

This movement begins with three simple ideas that portray Smetana's sense of excitement at the beginning of his career –

- I. A drone (long held pedal note)
- II. An oscillation (fast alternation between two pitches)
- III. A dramatic statement made from a downward leap ("I'm here!")

The image shows a musical score for the beginning of the first movement of Smetana's String Quartet No. 1, 'From My Life'. The score is for four parts: Violin I (Vln I.), Violin II (Vln II.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Violin I and II parts feature a fast oscillation between two notes, labeled 'oscillation'. The Viola part has a long held note with a downward leap marked 'I'm here!'. The Violoncello part has a long held drone note, labeled 'drone'. The score is annotated with 'oscillation' for the violin parts and 'drone' for the cello part.

THE MUSIC

Smetana's second ideas are contrasting in every way and describe his hopeful yearning for a life in music. This section is rather sad sounding and features -

- I. Smooth stepwise tune with stepwise accompaniment
- II. Gentle heartbeat

The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Violin I (Vln I.), Violin II (Vln II.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Vln I part is labeled 'step-wise, smooth tune' and features a melodic line with a stepwise ascent. The Vln II part is labeled 'step-wise, smooth accomp' and features a supporting melodic line. The Vc. part is labeled 'heartbeat' and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with rests, resembling a heartbeat.

Smetana shapes these two ideas into a modern sonata form.

QUICK COMPOSING TASK

- Create a short dramatic piece using these three ideas –
 - I. A drone
 - II. A wobble
 - III. A dramatic downward leap
- Create a contrasting short sad piece using these ideas –
 - I. Smooth stepwise tune
 - II. Gentle heartbeat
- Combine these themes to create a middle section.
You might want to refer to the 'story' as you do this. How is Smetana feeling?
- Structure your ideas into a modern sonata (with the same shape as Smetana) as follows -

DRAMATIC
piece

SAD
piece

DRAMATIC and
SAD combined

SAD
- fragmented

DRAMATIC
- fragmented

THE MUSIC

MVT 2: ALLEGRO MODERATO A LA POLKA

The joyful, carefree dances of student days

Smetana lives up to his title as 'father of Czech music' by giving us a classic, folk-inspired Polka. Smetana's Polka has several contrasting sections with a very simple middle that uses the following rhythms –

I. 'how I love to dance'



Vc. *"How I love to dance" "How I*

This musical notation shows a single staff for the Violoncello (Vc.) in 2/4 time. It features a simple rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a repeat sign at the end.

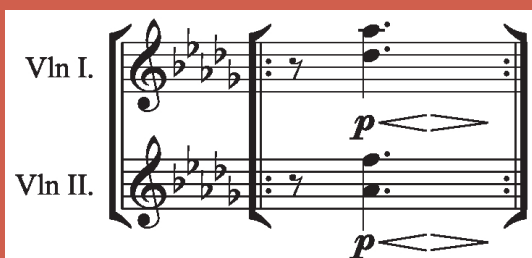
II. 'nice cup of tea'



Vla. *"Nice cup of tea"*

This musical notation shows a single staff for the Viola (Vla.) in 2/4 time. It features a simple rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a repeat sign at the end.

... and a sound that is like a little sigh –



Vln I.
Vln II.

p *p*

This musical notation shows two staves for Violins I (Vln I.) and Violins II (Vln II.) in 2/4 time. Both staves feature a simple rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a repeat sign at the end. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano).

These ideas fit together like this –



Vln I.
Vln II.
Vla.
Vc.

p *p*

"Nice cup of tea"

"How I love to dance" "How I

This musical notation shows four staves (Vln I., Vln II., Vla., and Vc.) in 2/4 time. The Vln I. and Vln II. staves feature a simple rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a repeat sign at the end. The Vla. and Vc. staves feature a simple rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes, with a repeat sign at the end. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano).

THE MUSIC

QUICK COMPOSING TASK

- Create a short polka using these three ideas
- Label this section A and create a Rondo (ABACA) by making short contrasting sections using your own dance rhythms

MVT 3: LARGO SOSTENUTO

First love and tragedy

In this movement Smetana remembers his first love and the tragedy of her early death. The music begins with a theme that shows off the large range of the cello –

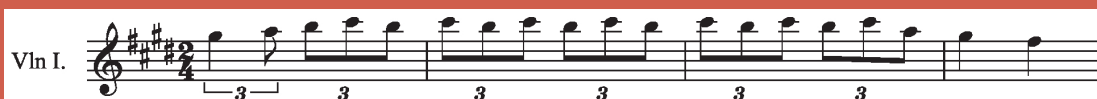


... and after this, continues as a set of variations on two beautiful themes. During the concert we will hear just a short extract from this movement.

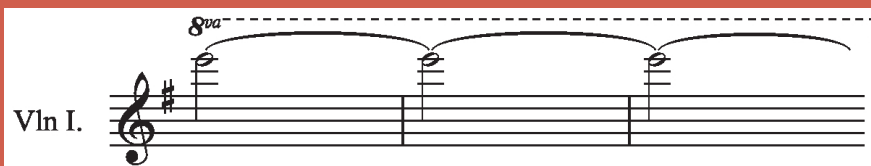
MVT 4: VIVACE

Triumph, success but then utter despair

This movement starts with an exuberant theme played by the full quartet -



... and continues with lots of flashy, frenetic, joyful playing but then suddenly the happiness is interrupted by a piercing high pitch from the 1st violin –



THE MUSIC

Smetana woke up one morning with this note ringing in his inner ear. Six months later he was completely deaf and he knew that he had an illness from which he would never recover. Despite this he lived for 10 more years and wrote some of his best music including this String Quartet.

The movement ends despondently with murmurs of themes from earlier in the quartet and therefore earlier in his life.

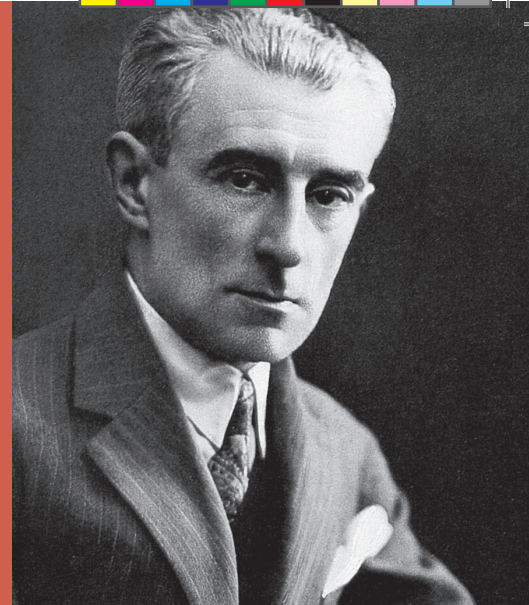
QUICK COMPOSING TASK

- Create an extremely happy piece using the following ingredients –
 - I. Two next-door notes
 - II. A swirling rhythm
 - III. Short stabbing chords –



- IV. Your own invented ostinatos
- Interrupt your music with a sudden unexpected sound. You could use the story behind this piece or a story from your own life to inspire this
 - End gloomily, borrowing ideas from previous tasks

THE MUSIC



MAURICE RAVEL (1875 - 1937)

Ravel was born in France close to the Spanish border. His mother was Spanish - a Spanish influence can be detected in many of his pieces, and his father was an inventor - this accounts for the often mechanical, rhythmical nature of Ravel's works. Ravel studied at the Paris Conservatoire and then had an illustrious career spurred on by his friendship and rivalry with the slightly more famous Debussy. When Debussy died in 1918, Ravel stepped up into the number one spot and a string of hugely successful pieces followed. His Bolero is one of the most famous pieces ever written and until very recently it made Ravel the highest paid musician in France out-earning even Elvis Presley and Michael Jackson!

STRING QUARTET IN F MAJOR, MOV 1

To say that Ravel's String Quartet of 1904 caused a scandal would be a huge understatement! When the young composer entered the piece for the prestigious Prix de Rome he was expected to win. He didn't. The head of the Paris Conservatoire resigned and Ravel left the establishment and was catapulted to fame (Ravel remains to this day the only famous French composer not to win the award). His string quartet became instantly famous and is now one of the most performed quartets of the 20th century.

During the concert we will hear just the 2nd movement which is in a perfect Ternary (ABA) form and uses several key string techniques including trills, tremolos, mutes and a lot of pizzicato.

DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE ARTSMARK STATUS OR RUN ARTS AWARD?

Did you know that taking part in projects, concerts and workshops can contribute towards both?

Artsmark is Arts Council England's flagship programme to enable schools and other organisations to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their arts and cultural provision.

For more information including how to apply for Artsmark status visit www.artsmark.org.uk.

Arts Award supports young people to deepen their engagement with the arts, to build creative and leadership skills, and to achieve a national qualification.

For more information on how your students might take part and how to become an Arts Award centre visit www.artsaward.org.uk.

Wigmore Hall Learning is a proud supporter of Artsmark and Arts Award. If taking part in a project, workshop or concert with us has contributed to your Artsmark status or your students' Arts Award please tell us! You can contact us on 020 7258 8240 or by emailing us at learning@wigmore-hall.org.uk.





ABOUT WIGMORE HALL

Europe's leading venue for chamber music and song, Wigmore Hall currently presents over 400 concerts a year in addition to 250 education events. Many of the Hall's concerts are recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio 3, including a live broadcast every Monday lunchtime.

Wigmore Hall is renowned for its excellent acoustics and intimate atmosphere. It has just 550 seats compared with nearly 6,000 at the Royal Albert Hall. The size of the Hall makes it ideal for singers and small groups of players. These are ensembles that would have originally been heard in people's living rooms!

Wigmore Hall was built in 1901 and is a beautiful example of Renaissance-style architecture and many original characteristics remain - gas lights are still lit for every concert. Wigmore Hall's auditorium features a cupola above the stage with a beautiful mural depicting the 'Soul of Music'.

Wigmore Hall Learning provides access to chamber music and song through innovative creative programmes, online resources and events. We invite a broad audience to get involved in music-making of the highest standard, particularly focusing on those who may be excluded from regular arts provision. We make connections through projects and partnerships, using music to inspire people, to explore opportunities and to enhance learning and development.

For further details about Wigmore Hall Learning contact us:
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