



Create

YOUR
OWN

MUSICAL
WORLD!

WIGMORE HALL

Learning

Pick a topic your child is inspired by
and let's create some music!

For example... **SPACE!**

1. FIND YOUR INSPIRATION

Draw or find a picture that inspires you. So often composers are inspired by art for example *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa* by Katsushika Hokusai inspired Claude Debussy's *La Mer*.

What will be in the picture? What colours will you use? Are there any characters? What sounds do they make?

2. SEEK OUT YOUR SOUNDS

What space sounds are you looking for? What about friendly aliens, shooting stars and the Sea of Tranquillity on the Moon? And not forgetting the all important rocket!

Go on a sound hunt around your house; raid the recycling bin, rummage through the toy box and see what's on your craft shelf. Or, try making your own instruments...

THINGS TO USE

- ★ Plastic bottles
- ★ Balloons
- ★ Paper of all sorts
- ★ Cereal boxes
- ★ Tins
- ★ Rice
- ★ Sticky tape
- ★ Wooden spoons
- ★ Pots and pans
- ★ Ice-cream tubs
- ★ Cardboard tubes
- ★ Buttons
- ★ String pasta
- ★ Lentils
- ★ Yoghurt pots

3. LET'S START TO COMPOSE!

Experiment with the sounds and support your child's creativity by encouraging their music making. This could be by:

- ★ Mirroring or copying
- ★ Helping them develop their idea by asking questions for example "How many shooting stars are there? Are they moving fast or slow?"
- ★ Get them to teach you the sound

SLOW
(lento)

MAGICAL

FAST
(allegro)

QUIET
(piano)

SCARY

LOUD
(forte)

CALM

SPIKY
(staccato)

4. CREATE YOUR OWN SPACE SYMPHONY!

There are no wrong answers as to how best to put your sounds together. But here are some helpful suggestions to help budding new composers along the way:

★ What is the musical story? You can write one! How does it start? Where does it go? How does it end?

For example: The rocket blasts off and as it's orbiting space it whooshes past shooting stars. It descends onto the moon, onto the banks of the sea of tranquillity, where an alien pops its head out!

- ★ You may want to try and include some of our star musician terms
- ★ Build a band – who can join the ensemble?
- ★ Give your composition a title!

5. PERFORM YOUR OWN WORLD PREMIÈRE

Find an audience to play your piece to – siblings, grandparents, friends or teddies! Record the performance!

5. LISTEN TO OTHER COMPOSERS' SPACE-INSPIRED MUSIC

for example Holst's *The Planets* and *Sternklang* by Stockhausen.

MORE IDEAS

- ★ Create your own score. For inspiration, look for examples of graphic scores that use different symbols, shapes and colours for notation.
- ★ Using the tune of a song you really like, write new lyrics to go with your topic. Here's a space song to the tune of Old MacDonald Had a Farm...

*Into space, our rocket zooms,
soaring very high
I can see a shooting star,
flying through the sky*

- ★ Explore other topics for example the weather, the seaside or the city.
- ★ Have a jam session on your instruments!

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

- ★ Let yourself go and enjoy it as well!
- ★ There are no wrong ideas – try not to be too fixed on what you think is 'good' music making. Musical creativity doesn't have to be about the right notes, in the right order, at the right time. It's about exploring!
- ★ These activities don't have to all be done at the same time. Some might just last for a few minutes, and others might take longer.
- ★ Some kids will love listening to or watching themselves – don't forget to record it!