

# School Ground Symphony

Music Activity

Lower & Upper Primary

Escape the classroom cacophony to create an overture outdoors!

**SCT** – I can use my voice, musical instruments and music technology to experiment with sounds, pitch, melody, rhythm, harmony, timbre and dynamics  
EXA 2-17a

**ENG/WAL** – Improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music **KS2**

**NIR** – Work creatively with sound by creating musical stories, pictures, patterns, conversations, accompaniments... **KS2**

**IRL** – Strand: Listening and Responding> Exploring Sounds> Instruments> Exploring ways of making sounds using manufactured and homemade instruments **Yr 5-6**

## Activities

### Basic

- Sit silently and listen to the sounds outside. Encourage the children to capture 'a fistful of sounds'- putting down one finger each time they capture a new noise to help focus their attention.
- Ask the children to think about how they could recreate their sounds and experiment with different instruments outside.
- Can they perform it as a symphony outdoors with teacher as conductor of the al fresco orchestra?

*Many musicians have taken inspiration from the sounds in the environment.*

[Vaughan Williams: The Lark Ascending](#)

[Mendelssohn – Overture: The Hebrides \('Fingal's Cave'\)](#)

[Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker Suite, 'Waltz of the Flowers'](#)

[Grieg: Peer Gynt, 'Morning' and 'In the Hall of the Mountain King'](#)

### Activities Continued More Challenging

- Children can design their own musical instruments to recreate the sounds from their environment.

*There are many instruments that directly imitate sounds from the environment e.g. the 'rainstick', coconut shell clip clops, the 'thunder drum' or the croaking wooden frog. The children could be challenged to make their own versions from recycled materials!*

### Advanced

- Musically literate pupils could even compose a musical motif\* for a feature of their local 'soundscape' collectively creating a school grounds overture when they are all combined.

\*A short recognisable unit of music repeated through the piece. It can be modified in pitch, rhythm or melodically.

[Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf'](#) uses musical instruments from 4 different groups to tell the story with each character represented by a particular one.



Fairthorne Manor YMCA Forest School Music Area

