

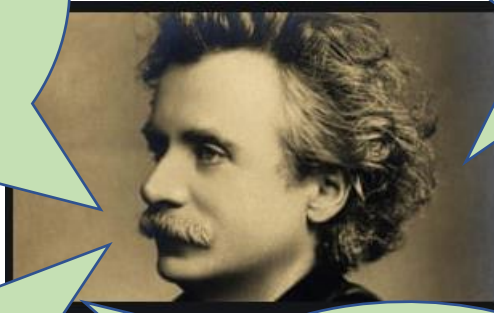
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES (KS3/4)

The Holberg Suite

Who was Edvard Grieg?

My music teacher mother taught me piano from the age of 6 and I went on to become Norway's most famous composer.

I was a Norwegian composer who lived in the second half of the 19th century.



My best known piece is called *In the Hall of the Mountain King* from the *Peer Gynt Suite*.

I was famous for writing NATIONALISTIC music



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLp_Hh6DKWc

What is Nationalistic music?

- NATIONALISTIC music is music which uses musical ideas associated with a specific country.
- Nationalistic composers might use folk tunes, distinctive rhythms or instruments for inspiration.

ACTIVITY

Can you think of a particular folk song or instrument associated with these countries?



Scotland

Ireland



Are there any other countries that have their own unique musical sound?

Can you describe it?

Folk influences in the Holberg Suite

THE DRONE

Listen to the 3rd movement, the Gavotte, following the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4DksvE_L4s

At about a minute into the piece you will hear the middle section.

Grieg uses a DRONE in the cellos to give a folk-inspired accompaniment.



What is a drone?

A drone is a musical effect used frequently in folk music.

A sustained note or notes, often a fifth apart such as in the example above, acts as an accompaniment.

This effect can clearly be heard in pieces played by the bagpipes.

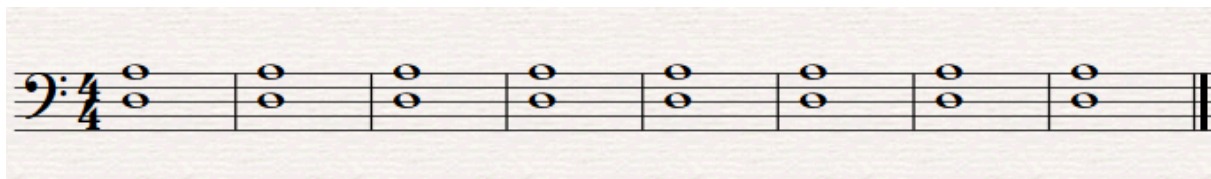
Listen to this example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBKBI7DOLHA>

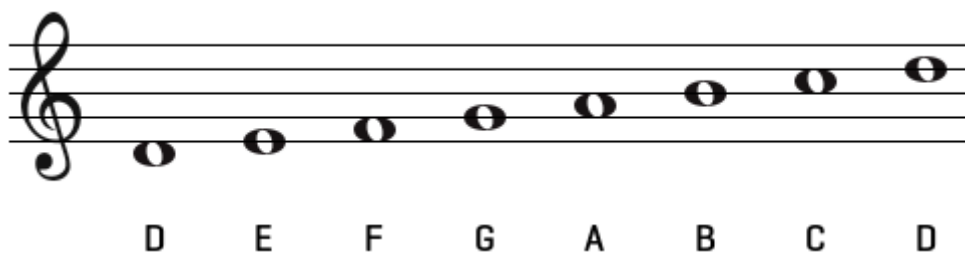
Drone Composition Activity

Many folk pieces use a drone as an accompaniment.
A drone is made of one or two held low notes that last throughout a piece.

1. Practise playing this drone on D and A.



2. Now play this special scale.
It is called the Dorian Mode and is often used in folk music.



3. Finally, improvise* a folk-style melody using the notes of the Dorian Mode while your partner plays the drone.
4. You can experiment with different rhythms in the drone to create an ostinato (a repeated rhythmic pattern).

* 'to improvise' means to make music up on the spot.

Spirited Passagework

Listen to the 5th movement, the Rigaudon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGAVDqel2hQ>

Grieg uses passages of fast quavers, known as passagework, to create an uplifting and lively folk feel.

Many folk violinists use semiquaver or quaver passagework to create music to lift the spirits.

Sometimes the fast notes are **SWUNG** to give a more lilting feel...
perfect for dancing to!

V. Rigaudon.
Allegro con brio. $\text{♩} = 144$.



The image shows a musical score for the fifth movement, 'V. Rigaudon', by Edvard Grieg. The tempo is marked 'Allegro con brio' with a tempo of 144 beats per minute. The score is for Violino Solo, Viola Solo, Violini I (Tutti.), Violini II, and Viole (Tutti.). The Violino Solo part is highlighted with a yellow oval and a blue line, indicating the 'SWUNG' quaver melody.

Listen to this Irish jig with a **SWUNG** quaver melody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6ICnU37BGk>



Jigs and Reels

Two different types of folk dance, each with its own style of instrumental music. You are going to learn to tell them apart.

It's all about **METRE: time signatures**

Reels are the most common type of dance tune in Irish folk music.

- ❖ They are in **2/2** (or 'cut time')
- ❖ They are made of two or more tunes, each one repeated, each 8 bars long.
- ❖ Accents are on the first and second beats
- ❖ They fit this pattern:

AL-li-ga-tor **AL**-li-ga-tor/ l-e-&-a 2-e-&-a

Jigs are dances of originally English origin.

- ❖ Like the reel, jigs are made of two or more parts, each of 8 bars
- ❖ Unlike the reel, the time signature is 6/8
- ❖ They fit this pattern:

JIG-i-ty JIG-i-ty/ 1-2-3, 4-5-6

Listening test- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3xeTpgLP5o

Say whether the tunes you hear are Jigs and Reels

Don't forget to use the patterns to help you.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

This strange gentleman is a morris dancer



Yes folks- you are about to learn all about the noble art of morris dancing!

The history of morris dancing

Morris dancing dates from the fifteenth century in England. 'Morris' is thought to relate to the word 'moriske' or 'moorish', and refers to the time in Spanish history when the Muslim moors were driven from Spain by the Spanish Christians. There was a craze across Europe for this 'moorish' dancing.

Sometimes dancers use sticks to symbolise sword fighting.

These guys are using slightly less deadly handkerchiefs.

Can you see where they are?



In the cross-ups: your first morris dancing moves

1. Stand on right leg with left foot off the ground and to the side. Arms held out (with hankies dangling)	2. Bring left knee up to waist and turn through 90 degrees clockwise on right leg. Arms still held out to side
3. Maintain the position while spinning through another 90 degrees. As you turn through a further 90 degrees, gradually lower your leg and prepare your right foot for the dismount	4. Bring your legs together and leap into the air and off your right foot. Your arms should now rise above the horizontal (while waving those hankies)

Now try it to some music!

And if you have time.....Stripping the Willow

This is actually a country dance, or barn dance. A Scottish barn dance is called a ceilidh

The dancers form a *longways* set (a row of gentlemen facing their partners, a row of ladies) of four couples. The 'objective' is to move the top couple to the bottom of the set, and the other couples move up one position.

Here's how to do it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vboU2A59POs>



Have fun. And don't forget your kilt!

Who was Holberg?

1

Holberg was a Danish-Norwegian playwright who lived in the 1600s. He was also largely responsible for developing the Danish language.



2

He was an important scholar and Norway was very proud of him.

3

In 1884, 200 years after Holberg's birth, Norway had a special celebration to remember their famous playwright.

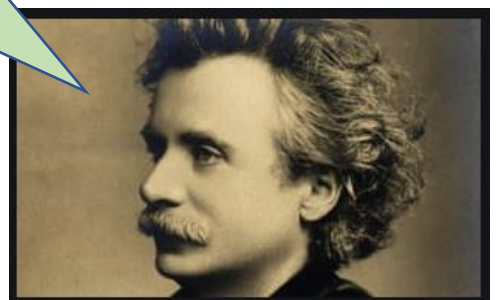
4

They chose Grieg to write a piece as a tribute to him.

They have asked me to compose a piece for Holberg's bicentenary.

I know! I will use the piano suite I have already written and arrange it for string orchestra!

It is perfect because it is inspired by dances from the Baroque period.



***The Holberg Suite* was inspired by Baroque courtly dances, all of which would have been familiar to**

Sarabande

A slow and stately
dance

Gavotte

An elegant dance

Rigaudon

A lively and vivacious
dance

Grieg began his suite with a *Preludium* or prelude. Many Baroque composers began their suites or groups of pieces with a fast and free-flowing introduction such as this.



The fourth movement is an *air*, a beautiful and elegant song-like piece.

Bach wrote a famous air in his Suite in D major.

ACTIVITY: listen to the two airs and see what similarities and differences you can find.

Bach's Air

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

Grieg's Air

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wd3Oy_q6zU

Why does music make us want to make us dance?

Our brains naturally want us to synchronize with a **BEAT**. This is why many people like to listen to fast, energetic music when exercising.



All music has a heartbeat or PULSE.
If it is a steady, unchanging beat we are more likely to want to move along in time.

ACTIVITY:

1. Listen for the pulse in the *Holberg Gavotte* and clap in time.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4DksvE_L4s

2. Now listen again and see if you can hear how the piece is divided up in small chunks, or bars, of two. We describe this a **DUPLE TIME**.

If a bar is divided into three it is **TRIPLE TIME** and if it is divided into four it is **QUADRUPLE TIME**.

3. Listen to the other dance movements and see if you can hear whether they are **DUPLE**, **TRIPLE** or **QUADRUPLE TIME**.

Sarabande

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UZNPZyrNIM>

Rigaudon

<https://www.youtube.co>

The Holberg Suite was inspired by Baroque courtly dances, all of which would have been familiar to Holberg.

Each of the dances has its own character.

Discuss what musical features you think give the dances this unique feel?

Sarabande

A slow and stately
dance

Gavotte

An elegant dance

Rigaudon

A lively and vivacious
dance

Consider these musical elements in your discussion....

TEMPO

The speed of the
music

PITCH

How high or low
the notes are

RHYTHM

The pattern of the
notes

TEXTURE

How many instruments
play at a time and how
they interact

TIMBRE

The individual
sounds of the
instruments

Now for the fun bit.....

Create your own dance to fit the musical mood!