

VIENNESE MUSICAL CLOCK - KODALY

Context

Kodaly wrote an opera in which the main character, a soldier called Hary Janos, describes his heroic adventures, which are exaggerated or simply not true. Kodaly used some of the music from the opera in an instrumental work called *The Hary Janos Suite*. *Viennese Musical Clock* is one of the movements in this suite.

Teaching and Learning

- This piece is in 4-time.
- It is a rondo. The first section (A) is heard four times, while the other three sections (B, C, D) are heard once each.
- The instruments include the tubular bells, trumpets, celesta, piccolo, triangle, cymbals and snare drum.
- Words that can be used when talking about this music: happy, bouncy, loud, steady, metallic, story-telling, imaginative, exaggerating, heroic, proud.
- Here is the outline score of the A tune:



Activities for Children

- Children can learn about structure in music by ‘acting’ out the different stages of the piece.
- All of the children form a circle, representing the clock. They ‘freeze’ until their own particular music is played. Each group takes a bow at the end of their own music.
- The A group could dance each time the main tune is heard. Then they ‘freeze’.
- The B group could mime playing the trumpet during the second section.
- The C group could march around regally, possibly wearing crowns to represent royalty.
- The D group could brandish imaginary swords and pretend to have a duel.
- With an older age-group the children could hold up the appropriate letter to match the music being played, instead of moving around.
- Finally, the children could draw a musical clock, using this image as a starting point and adding some musical symbols.

