

PAVANE OF THE SLEEPING BEAUTY - RAVEL

Context

Ravel's *Pavane of the Sleeping Beauty* is the first movement from *The Mother Goose Suite*. The other movements are called *Tom Thumb*, *Empress of the Pagodas*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Fairy Garden*. Ravel originally wrote this work as a piano duet (where two people play one piano at the same time).

Teaching and Learning

- This expressive piece is in 4-time.
- A pavane is a slow processional dance.
- The instruments include harp, flute, muted horn and plucked strings.
- Words that can be used when talking about this music: dreamy, delicate, sleepy, quiet, gentle.
- Here is the outline score of the first few bars:



Activities for Children

- Tell the children that the music describes a fairy tale. They have to guess which one by listening to the music. Call out the names of other fairy tales (such as Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks, Hansel and Gretel and Snow White) or give them pictures of other fairy tale characters to help them to decide. They will explain their choice. Refer to loud, soft, fast and slow during the discussion and mention instruments when possible e.g. flute (dreamy), clarinet (deeper) and violins up very high (magical). The harp also plays a little here to add to the fairy tale feel.
- Sing the opening phrase: "Go to sleep, my dear; stay asleep, my dear, soon your prince will come along". These words were not written by Ravel, but they allow the children to connect with the music and the idea behind the music.

(Made-up words)

