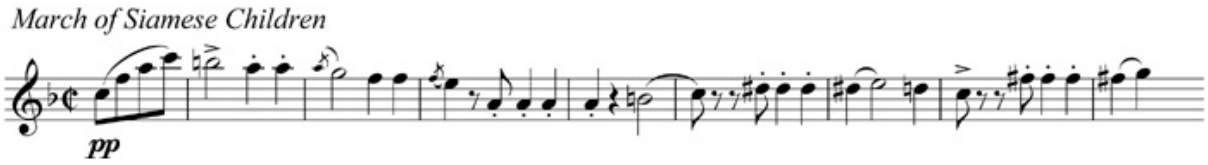
THE MARCH OF SIAMESE CHILDREN – RODGERS

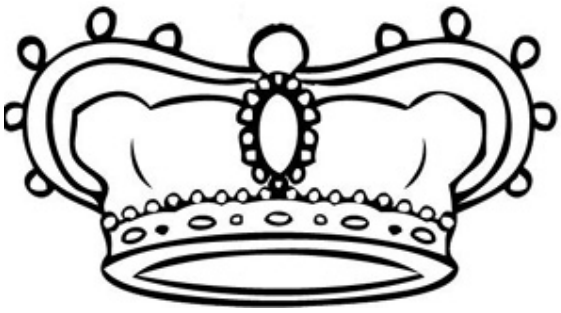
Context

The March of Siamese Children is an instrumental piece from the musical, *The King and I.* In this scene, the King of Siam presents 67 young princes and princesses to their new nanny, Anna.

Teaching and Learning

- This is a march in 4-time.
- The structure is ABA.
- The instruments include flute, woodblock and the brass family.
- The music sounds exotic because of the scale used, rather than the instruments.
- Words that could be used when describing the music include majestic, exotic, playful, steady, not too fast.
- Here is the outline score of the first phrase:



Activities for Children

- The scene from the musical can be re-enacted. Two children stand at the top of the room. They represent the King and Anna. The other children line up at the back of the room and march past them in time to the music, each with their own personality.
- During the middle section all the boys bow and all the girls curtsy to show that they hear a change in the music. They strike a pose for the duration of this section. When the main tune returns, they resume the march-past and return to their seats.
- Older children might wonder what Siamese means. Siam is the old name for Thailand. The children could be asked to locate it on the globe.
- If there is a piano in the room, play the five black notes in any sequence. Pentatonic scales have an oriental feel.
- Do the children know of any living king or queen? Do they wear a crown? Draw a crown or colour this one in.