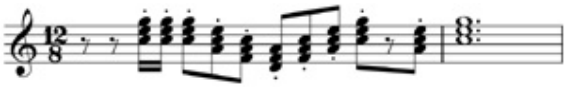
MARCH OF THE TOYS - HERBERT

Context

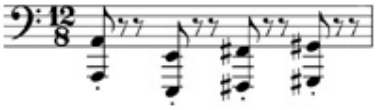
March of the Toys is taken from the musical, *Babes in Toyland.* Imagine all your toys marching along! They would need a big fanfare to announce the march and a good steady beat to keep them from tripping into each other!

Teaching and Learning

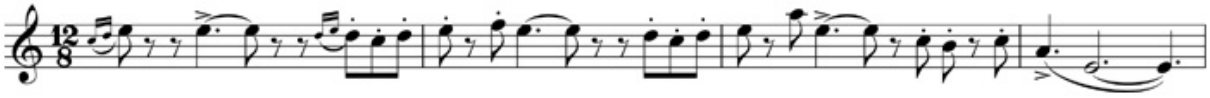
- This is a march in 4-time.
- The instruments include trumpets, snare drum, violins, cellos, double basses, flutes, clarinets and triangle.
- Words that could be used when describing the music include determined, resolute, strong, steady, getting louder, fanfare announcing something important.
- The opening fanfare played by brass with flutes and clarinets is



- The ostinato (repeated figure) played by cellos and basses is



- The main tune played by violins, flutes and clarinets is



Activities for Children

- Divide the class into marchers and musicians. Images of different toys and fairy tale characters are distributed (face down, at first – no peeping!). The children are not allowed to tell anyone what their character is. They must assume the role assigned to them on the picture e.g. Bo-Peep has to keep an eye on her sheep. Marchers walk in a circle in time to the music. Musicians remain seated and mime the act of playing trumpets, snare drums, violins and other instruments as outlined above. The bigger variety of playing actions, the better e.g. the flute is held sideways, the trumpet can be tilted upwards and so on. Each time the fanfare is sounded the marching stops and the fanfare players get our full attention. The marching resumes when the ostinato is heard. To assist the children, images of the instruments can be displayed at the front of the room as a reminder.
- Compare this piece to *Parade of the Wooden Soldiers* (Track 2).