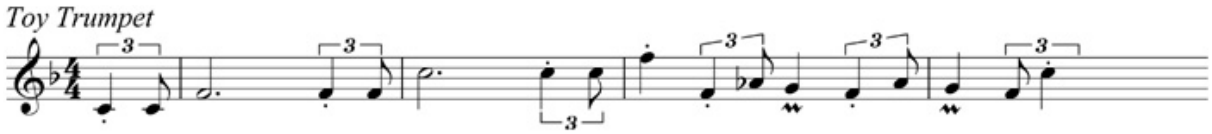
THE TOY TRUMPET - SCOTT

Context

The Toy Trumpet was composed in 1937 by Raymond Scott who was an American bandleader. Shirley Temple sings a version of the tune in a film called *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* (1938).

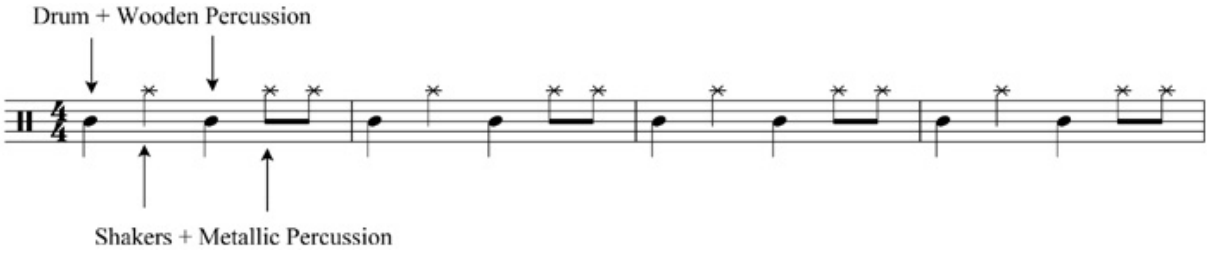
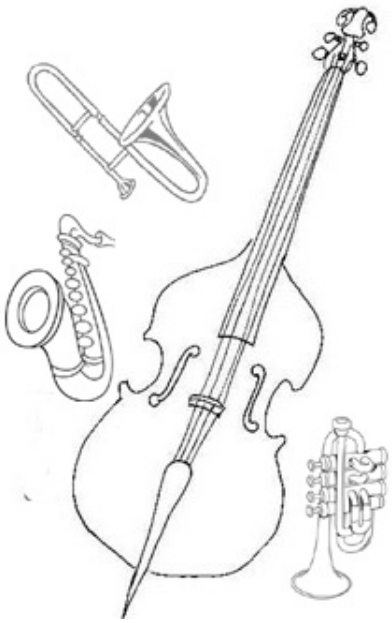
Teaching and Learning

- This is a jazz piece in 4-time displaying syncopation, swing, blues notes and chord patterns.
- The music features a trumpet with a mute in it (to change the timbre or colour of the sound).
- Words that could be used when describing the music include jazzy, cheerful, brassy, like cartoon music.
- The main tune is



Activities for Children

- Responding to the music by finding and following the beat is important with a piece like this. The children will move in time to the music – on the spot – while counting 1-2-3-4 and using 'jazz hands'.
- Some simple steps can be added: right foot forward and back four times, then left foot forward and back four times.
- Older children might be able to sing *soh–doh–doh–soh* with the first few notes.
- Distribute classroom percussion instrument. Assign a shaker, a drum, a wooden instrument and so on to each child. Drums and wooden instruments could be struck or shaken on the first beat of the bar, while other instruments are shaken on the third beat, thus setting up a sort of backbeat.



- The children will try to name the 'odd man out' in the group of jazz instruments below, and explain why (e.g. the double bass is not blown into; it has strings; the others have a bell shape…). The other instruments are trumpet, trombone and saxophone.