

**TRINITY LABAN FAMILY CONCERT:
TALL TALES, MAGICAL MYTHS AND THE STUFF OF LEGENDS**
Symphonic Poems by Antonín Dvořák

Home Education Resource Pack

Concert Presenter: Lucy Drever
Conductor: Jonathan Mann



INTRODUCTION

This Resource Pack was originally produced for families attending our concert 'Tall Tales, Magical Myths and the Stuff of Legends' at Blackheath Halls on Saturday 2 March 2019. The concert featured a live orchestra alongside a presenter, Lucy Drever, who guided the audience through the music. The first piece was called **The Wild Dove** and the second piece was called **The Water Goblin**. A composer called Antonín Dvořák wrote both pieces. These pieces are called **Symphonic Poems**. This simply means that the music has been inspired by **poetry**.

You will get the most out of this resource if you listen to our specially created playlist, 'Tall Tales, Magical Myths and the Stuff of Legends', which can be found here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1FGt5LSv9kBvBGXgHSePW-J?si=Kqsd5twVS9OAcvorZglARA>

Where relevant, we have selected sections of the tracks on the playlist which are of particular interest. You can find these extracts highlighted in bold throughout this resource pack.

Who was Antonín Dvořák?

Pronounced: AN-tuh-noon DVOR-zhaak

- He **loved** trains
- A Czech composer
- Wrote music for his job
- He loved folk songs
- Moved to America in 1892
- He used his time in America to learn about American music
- He was born in 1841 in Nelahozeves, Czechia



- Do you know any other composers? Why not listen to some other composers, maybe even some who are writing now?

Some ideas of composers writing today are;

- Anna Meredith- 'Varmints'
- Mason Bates- 'Mothership'
- Gabriel Prokofiev- 'Allegro Gavotte "Snow Time"'

You can find recordings for all of the above on our 'Tall Tales, Magical Myths, and the Stuff of Legends' playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1FGt5LSv9kBvBGX-gHSePWJ?si=Kqsd5twVS9OAcvorZglARA>

Try to see if you can hear instruments that Dvořák didn't include in these two pieces.

- What is your favourite story, picture or poem? Have a think; what kind of music do you imagine would go with it to really tell the story?
- Dvořák was a HUGE fan of folk music and he was particularly interested in the folk music of his own country. There are many types of folk music from all over the world; why not have a listen to Scottish Ceilidh music or Spanish flamenco to get a sense of how music from different countries can sound very different?
- One of this composer's most famous pieces of music is his Symphony No. 9, which is also known as his ***New World Symphony*** (you can find an excerpt from this in our 'Tall Tales, Magical Myths and the Stuff of Legends' playlist). He wrote this whilst he was living in America. He was very homesick and missing his home life in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic.) Why not have a listen and see if you recognise it?

THE WILD DOVE

- **Scene 1:** A woman poisons her husband and there is a sad, serious funeral march
- **Scene 2:** However, the woman is happy, as she is now free to marry the man she loves!
- **Scene 3:** The woman hears a dove singing and it makes her think about what she has done...
- **Scene 4:** She feels guilty about poisoning her husband and ends up killing herself.

All of the timings below refer to the recording of 'The Wild Dove' which can be found on our 'Tall Tales, Magical Myths and the Stuff of Legends' playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1FGt5LSv9kBvBGXgHSePWJ?si=Kqs-d5twVS9OAcvorZglARA>

Answer True or False to the following statements:

You would use very quick, happy music to sound like a funeral:
(from the beginning of the piece — 2'06)

TRUE

FALSE

The violins are the sound of the woman crying... (3'36 — 4'06)

TRUE

FALSE

The dancing at the wedding is accompanied by Scottish folk music:
(8'04 — 9'55)

TRUE

FALSE

A key instrument in the folk music you hear during this piece is the percussion:
(8'05 — 9'55)

TRUE

FALSE

The sound of the Dove's wings fluttering are played by the flutes and oboes:
(13'31 — 13'42)

TRUE

FALSE

The end of the piece is loud and angry (18'28 — end):

TRUE

FALSE



THE WATER GOBLIN

All of the timings below refer to the recording of 'The Water Goblin' (Op. 107) which can be found on our 'Tall Tales, Magical Myths and the Stuff of Legends' playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1FGt5LSv9kBvBGXgHSePWJ?si=Kqs-d5twVS9OAcvorZglARA>

- There are three main characters in this story: a water goblin, a young woman and a mother.
- The mother warns the young girl not to visit the lake because it is dangerous...
- The young girl visits the lake to wash her clothes and she is captured by the water goblin who forces her to marry him!
- You can hear the water goblin dragging the young girl underwater at **5'15 — 5'41**
- She becomes his wife and joins him living in his murky world under the lake. They have a baby together, but the water goblin is mean, angry and difficult to live with.
- She desperately misses her mother, and wants to visit her back on dry land.
- She visits her mother, but her mother does not want her to return to the water goblin. Things get worse... MUCH worse... the goblin is furious when the young girl does not return and insists that she returns immediately.
- There is a huge crash and the water goblin throws their child against the door of her mother's home in a fit of fury and rage.

A musical **theme** is a collection of notes that, in this case, represents a leading character from our story. Each of the three main characters have their own musical themes. Listen out for them!

Describe the **Water Goblin's** theme in two words
(**opening — 0'8**)

.....

Describe the **young girl's** theme in two words
(**1'45 — 2'27**)

.....

What percussion instrument is the twinkle in the young girl's eye?
(**1'45 — 2'27**)

.....

Describe the **mother's** theme in two words
(**2'34 — 3'04**)

.....

Circle the correct instruments — sometimes the answer is more than one instrument!

What instrument has the composer used to create the sound of water swirling in a lake? You can hear this alongside the goblin motif (opening — 0'21)



Which instrument has the composer used to create the sound of the water goblin throwing the girl's baby against the door? (16'10 — 16'44)



What instrument does the composer use to create the sound of the angry Water Goblin arguing and banging on the door? (16'10 — 16'44)



Which instrument might you use for a storm starting on a dark night? (16'19 — 17'21)



ANSWERS

Answer True or False to the following statements:

You would use very quick, happy music to sound like a funeral:

TRUE

FALSE

Music for a funeral usually sounds slow and sad. Often it will be in a minor, or sad, key.

The violins are the sound of the woman crying...

TRUE

FALSE

You can hear the violins 'crying' over the sombre funeral march.

The dancing at the wedding is accompanied by Scottish folk music:

TRUE

FALSE

The dancing at the wedding is accompanied by Bohemian folk. Many of Dvořák's compositions were influenced by traditional Czech, Moravian and Slavic melodies, harmonies and dance forms.

A key instrument in the folk music you hear during this piece is the percussion:

TRUE

FALSE

The tambourine and triangle feature heavily in the celebratory wedding dance

The sound of the Dove's wings fluttering are played by the flutes and oboes:

TRUE

FALSE

The end of the piece is loud and angry:

TRUE

FALSE

The piece ends on a positive note and in a major key. Has the old woman finally been redeemed after her bad behaviour? The fluttering of the dove's wings ends the piece.

What percussion instrument is the twinkle in the young girl's eye?

Answer: The triangle

Circle the correct instruments — sometimes the answer is more than one instrument!

What instrument has the composer used to create the sound of water swirling in a lake?

Answer: The violins are used to represent the water swirling around the lake.

Which instrument has the composer used to create the sound of the water goblin throwing the girl's baby against the door? (16'10 — 16'44)

Answer: The cymbals

What instrument does the composer use to create the sound of the angry Water Goblin arguing and banging on the door?

Answer: The French horn. When the French horn section play this together, it's very loud and angry!

Which instrument might you use for a storm starting on a dark night?

Answer: The cello. The cello is the ideal instrument for this due to its low pitch and a string technique called tremolo. Tremolo is where a note is repeated again and again by the bow going back and forth, creating a trembling effect that composers can use to create tension.



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