

MY GREAT ORCHESTRAL ADVENTURE



ACTIVITY BOOK AND PROGRAMME

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON

Hi there!

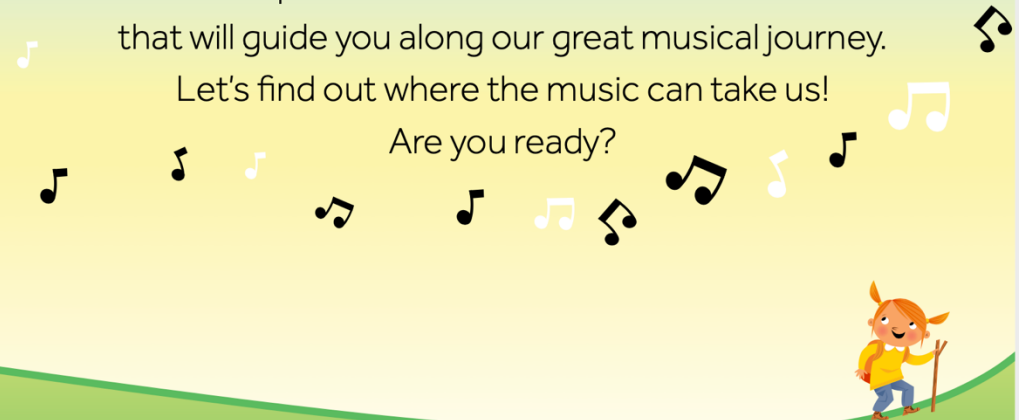
Welcome to My Great Orchestral Adventure!

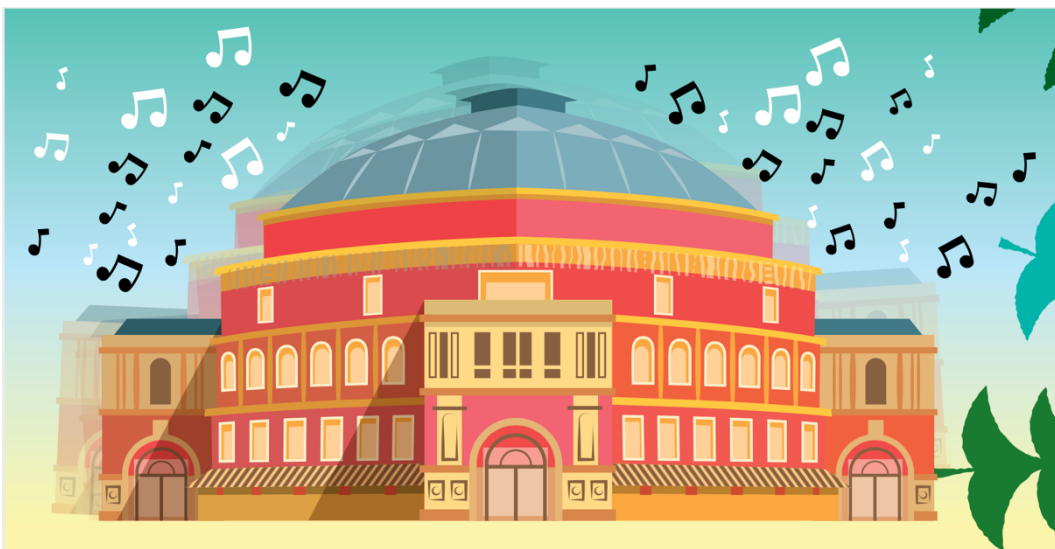


This book is packed with fun activities and information
that will guide you along our great musical journey.

Let's find out where the music can take us!

Are you ready?





Welcome to the Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall is one of the oldest concert halls in the country. It was opened in 1871 and was the idea of Prince Albert, who was married to Queen Victoria. He wanted to build a Hall where anyone could come and enjoy music, and where everyone could explore and learn. Today the Royal Albert Hall puts on over 380 shows a year on its main stage – that's more than one show every day of the year!



Where else can you go in a concert hall?

A concert hall is a very special place, where you can hear performances of all sorts of different music. If you use your imagination, going to a concert hall could actually take you almost anywhere...

You could go back in time; you could go to a desert or a forest; or maybe even into outer space! Music has the power to create different atmospheres and feelings, by using different instruments, melodies and musical ideas.

What is an orchestra?

An orchestra is a large group of musicians who all play together at the same time. Each instrument has its own special music to play. A composer writes all these different musical parts which come together to make one whole piece – a bit like how a painter uses lots of different colours to make a painting.

Each instrument has its own characteristics, which we will learn more about in this book. This means that a composer can choose which instrument would be best for each musical idea that he or she wants to include. Orchestras can contain over 100 musicians, and professional musicians travel all over the world to perform in them.



What does a conductor do?

A conductor directs the orchestra, so that all the musicians know when to start and when to stop, and what speed they should play at. The conductor also gives instructions about how to play, for instance when to play louder or quieter.

A conductor will sometimes use his hands to give these instructions, but more often uses a **baton** (a short thin stick).

They stand in front of the orchestra so that all the musicians can see them, and they always take their own bow at the end of a concert!



How can music make you feel?

Music is used to tell a story in lots of different ways – music is used in film and TV, in live theatre, ballet and opera, and it can even tell a story all on its own. It does this by making us feel different emotions, and creating different moods.



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Join the dots

HAPPY

Life's a Happy Song, McKenzie

This song, composed by Bret McKenzie, was written for The Muppets to perform! They sing about the things they like to do with someone else by their side, like making a cake or riding a bike. Can you name some things that you like to do with your family and friends?

William Tell Overture, Rossini

An 'overture' is the opening to a story, and in this case it is the beginning of an opera called *William Tell*. The story is set in the Swiss Alps, so this music is used to depict the beautiful landscape, with storms followed by sunny weather, as well as some soldiers marching over the mountains.



SAD

Asa's Death from Peer Gynt, Grieg

Peer Gynt was written by Edvard Grieg to tell a story, a bit like the one you will hear today! This piece is for a very sad moment in the story where the main character's mother dies; you will hear a melancholy tune played only by instruments in the string family.

Swan Lake, Tchaikovsky

In the story of *Swan Lake*, Princess Odette has been turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer and can only break the spell if she falls in love with someone who loves her in return. Listen for the main tune being played by the woodwind instruments, particularly the oboe and clarinet.

Colour
us in !

SCARED

Hall of the Mountain King from Peer Gynt, Grieg

This piece of music tells a story about trolls living inside a mountain. You will hear the music sounding like tiptoes at the beginning, with the string instruments using pizzicato (plucking), and then becoming louder and faster throughout.

Dies Irae, Mozart

Dies Irae is a Latin name for a song that is part of a Requiem Mass – this is a piece of music written for church when someone has died. This was the last piece Mozart ever wrote; in fact he died before it was completed.

Ride of the Valkyries, Wagner

The *Ride of the Valkyries* is taken from an opera by Richard Wagner. Valkyries are female creatures who fly around the battlefield according to Norse mythology. Listen for the main tune being played by brass instruments whilst the strings and woodwind are rushing up and down, depicting the Valkyries flying around in the sky.

ADVENTUROUS

Duel of the Fates, Williams

Duel of the Fates is a musical theme written by John Williams for the *Star Wars* films. This piece features a choir singing words in a language called Sanskrit.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Stephens

You might have heard this story before, and the musical version is even more exciting! Sing along and follow the actions...

Flight to Neverland, Williams

This piece of music was also written by John Williams, this time for the film *Hook*. He uses the full power of the orchestra to make us feel like we can fly. Try closing your eyes whilst you are listening to this music, and imagine you are flying!



Spot the 6 differences

A MIXTURE!

Symphony no. 4, Mahler [excerpt, 3rd movement]

A symphony is a special word for a piece with several sections (or movements) written for an orchestra. Gustav Mahler wrote 10 symphonies in his lifetime. This part of his fourth symphony has a few different moods within it; there are very calm and serene moments, as well as big triumphant climaxes. Listen out for the different moods - can you think of any words to describe how the music makes you feel? Write them in the box below:

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for writing words to describe the mood of the music.

A colorful illustration for an advertisement. The background is a gradient from light blue at the top to yellow at the bottom. There are several stylized evergreen trees in shades of green and orange. Numerous musical notes of various sizes are scattered throughout the scene. In the top left corner, the text 'ALBERT'S BAND' is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

ALBERT'S BAND

The Royal Albert Hall has its very own group of musicians called *Albert's Band*. These highly skilled musicians appear in all sorts of places, from primary schools to care homes, and family festivals to the Royal Albert Hall stage! They also put on fabulously fun half term concerts, so we hope you might come and see them soon.

For more information about Albert's Band and the Hall's extensive Education & Outreach programme please visit www.royalalberthall.com/education

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