

# SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

## Introduction to the composer

Learning Focus: Introducing students to the composer

Activity length: 30 minutes +  
Suitable for YR3 - YR6

### INTRODUCTION:

Ask students:

- When you write a story what do you have to do?
- When a composer writes a piece, what do you think they have to do?

Consider the similarities to the creative process of a composer

Narrative

How you want to tell  
the story

How you will write  
the story

What the characters  
will say, etc.

Tell students that this is similar to how music is created and the person who does this has a special name, they are a composer.

Introduce learning intention: Learning about the composer

### LESSON CONTENT:

As a class discuss:

What does it mean to be a  
composer?

How do you think a  
composer writes music?

What does a composer use  
to write music?

Introduce Benjamin Britten as the composer of *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

As a class discuss:

What do you think this  
piece is going to be about?

What story is the composer  
trying to tell?

Summarise the classes ideas and explain that Britten was trying to introduce all the instruments of the orchestra and show the different character of each instrument family.

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This activity can be done in groups or independently:

Tell students we will be exploring the character Britten creates for each of the orchestra families. Play the suggested sections (below) for students, after each section ask students to reflect on:

What instruments is the composer writing about?

Why do think it was these instruments?

What did their sound make you think of?

What was your favourite section and why?

Bring students together for a brief show-and-tell session regarding their answers to the questions, and end by revealing to them the names of the family section that the composer was writing for in each excerpt.

### EXTENSION:

Ask students to use the biography link on Page 3 to research the composer and find out five fun facts. Stimulus questions could include:

What instrument did they play?

Where do they live?

What was the composers most famous work?

Ask students to create a poster presenting their research findings.

# YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA

## Introduction to the Composer - Information Sheet

Today you will be exploring what a composer is, how they make their music and who the composer was for *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. You will learn about Benjamin Britten, his life and what the piece is about.

### What is a Composer?

A composer is the person who writes the music for an orchestra to play.

### What does it mean to be a composer?

Being a composer is like being a story writer but with music. When you write a story there are different steps you follow when creating your story like these:

1. You have an idea
2. You think about the characters for your story and the setting
3. You come up with the narrative
4. You create a beginning
5. You write the middle parts of your story with the action
6. You create the conclusion or ending to your story

This can be the same for a composer writing their music. **Composers are our musical storytellers.** They create the story of the music and decide what characters should enter at different points, how it should begin and how it should end. They do this by writing notes for the musicians to play and the musicians of the orchestra become our storytellers.

For *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* a gentleman called **Benjamin Britten was the composer** who wrote this musical story. He was a very talented person, [click here](#) to read more about the composer or copy the website link below.

[classicsforkids.com/composer/benjamin-britten](https://classicsforkids.com/composer/benjamin-britten)

When you have read about the composer **create a poster sharing five interesting facts you learnt.**