

Knowledge Organiser: Rivers



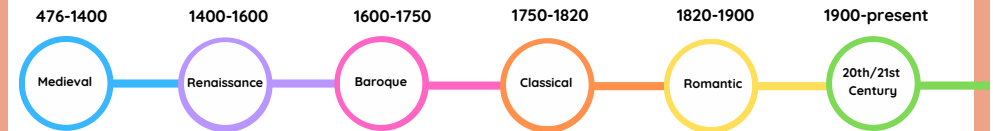
Topic Background

With so many beautiful features, it's no wonder that many composers have been inspired by water. We can use tempo to illustrate its changes in speed as it builds momentum from its source or create the gentle ripples of its surface by carefully using changes in dynamics.

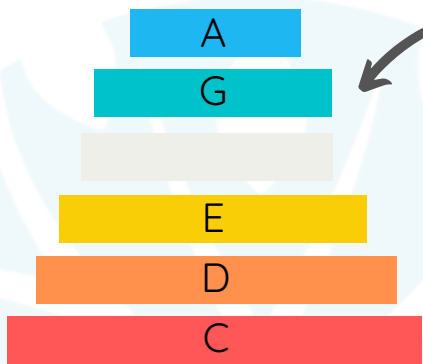
As a civilisation, humans have often found peace by the rivers that we encounter and it is here that we often feel compelled by their features, such as the gondoliers in Venice who used to sing traditional folk songs called barcarolles. In the 19th Century many composers copied the style and wrote barcarolles both as songs in the same style and also instrumental pieces. Barcarolles typically depict a background of rippling water like sounds and textures with a strong melodic line which may be sung by voices or portrayed instrumentally. They also often have a rocking rhythm suggestive of rowing.

Listening Pieces

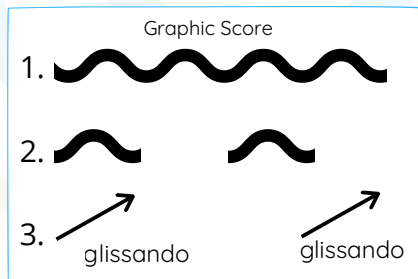
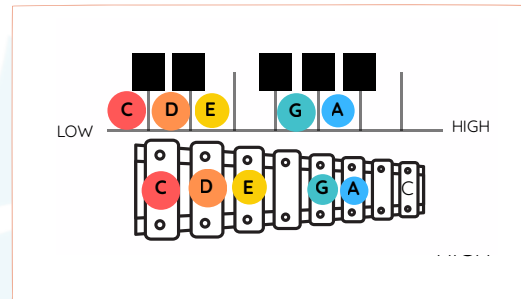
- The Tales of Hoffman, Jacques Offenbach, 1880
- Vltava, Bedrich Smetana, 1875



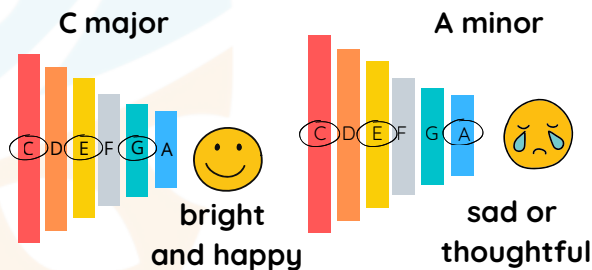
Musical Knowledge



pentatonic scale



Chords



Key Vocabulary

- accompany:** provides rhythmic or harmonic support to the melody
- chord:** three or more notes played at the same time
- dynamics:** how loud or quiet a sound is
- glissando:** a continuous slide upwards or downwards between notes
- lyrics:** words that make up a song
- melody:** the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches
- notate:** to write down music
- pentatonic scale:** a series of five notes e.g. C, D, E, G, A
- pitch:** how high or low a sound is
- score:** how a musician writes music down
- structure:** how a piece is organised
- tempo:** how fast or slow the music is