

May 5th

Memory Verse

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Something to read and stretch your vocabulary

Haydn's "Military" Symphony (No.7 of his London Symphonies) was immensely popular in London:

The Morning Chronicle 5th May 1794

*HAYDN'S BENEFIT*¹

[I] was on Friday last at the Hanover-square Rooms. The Company was numerous and splendid. [Haydn's] grand and most admirable military movement produced its full effect, and every auditor seemed delighted to contribute to do honour to this great man... The reason of the great effect [the cymbals] produce, in the military movement is that they mark and tell the story: they inform us that the army is marching to battle, and calling up all ideas of the terror of such a scene, give it reality. Discordant sounds are then sublime; for what can be more horribly discordant to the heart than thousands of men meeting to murder each other.

At the second performance the *Morning Chronicle* correspondent reported that the movement that gave the symphony its name, "was again received with absolute shouts of applause. Encore! Encore! Encore! Resounded from every seat; the Ladies themselves could not forbear." The reporter commented that, "It is the advancing to battle; and the march of men, the sounding of the charge, the thundering of the onset, the clash of arms, the groans of the wounded, and what may well be called the [awful] roar of war increases to a climax of horrid sublimity!"

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was an Austrian composer who wrote 107 symphonies as well as numerous chamber works², operas and piano sonatas. For most of his working life he was employed by a prince, Prince Nicholas Esterházy, for whom he had to write music to order. When the prince died in 1790 his successor did not care about music and Haydn moved to Vienna. Then he accepted an invitation from the violinist and concert organiser, Johann Peter Salomon, to visit England. Haydn was in England during 1791 – 1792 and here he was truly appreciated and fêted wherever he went.

I have highlighted some words in green for you to look up in a dictionary.

Something to listen to

Find a recording of this symphony to listen to.³ The movement that caused all the excitement recorded in the newspapers is the second movement.

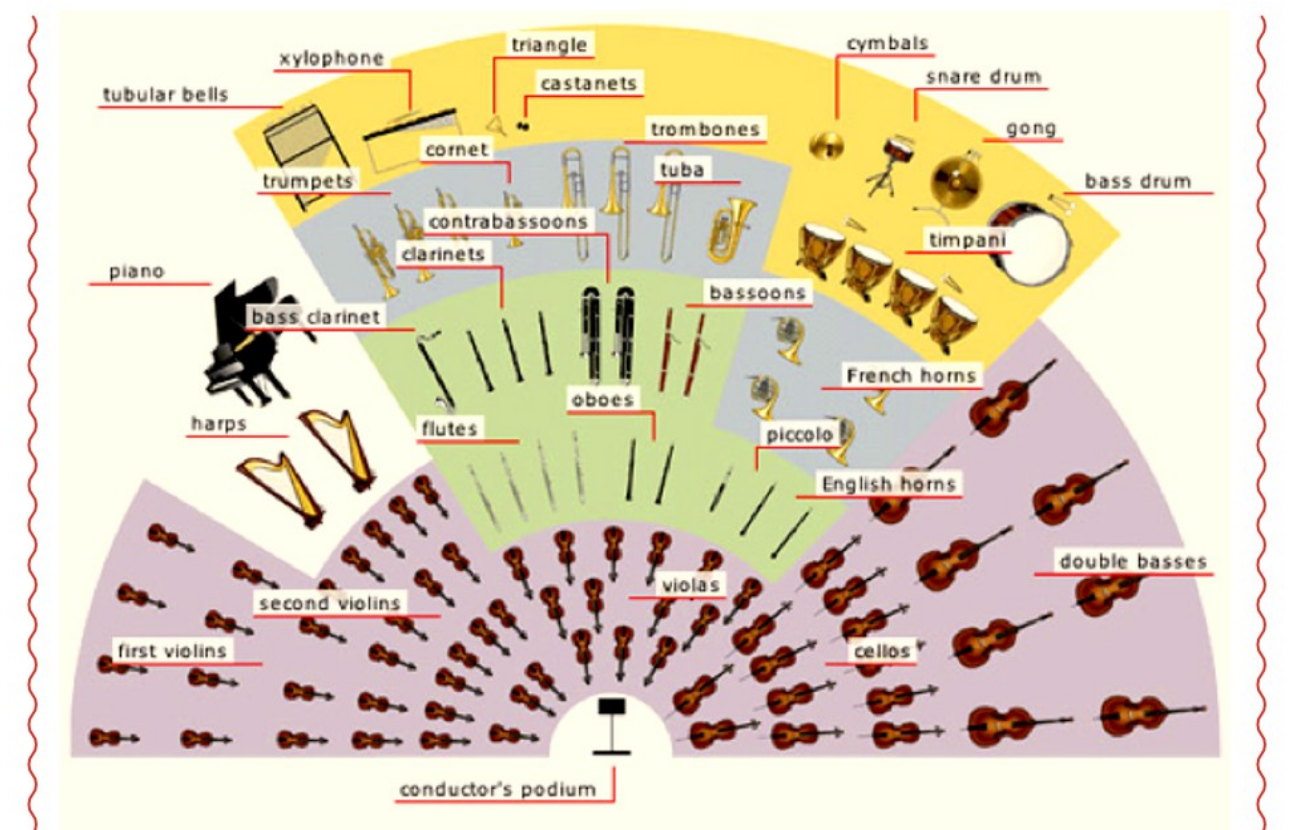
1 A composer's benefit concert was one where the proceeds all went to the composer.

2 Pieces for a small group of players.

3 The Grenville County Youth Orchestra play it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOFpHyKQoiI> The movement that caused all the enthusiasm in the newspaper starts at 7:34.

Spot the instruments and draw a plan

Below is a plan of an orchestra. It is a large orchestra and Haydn wrote for a small one. He had no harps, piano, piccolos, English Horns,⁴ cornets, contra bassoons, tubas or trombones. The percussion department on the plan below is large too. Haydn would usually have just two kettle drums (timpani) and sometimes no percussion at all. However, for *this* symphony he included triangle, cymbals and a bass drum. (More about his reasons for this below.) Make your own copy of the plan but leave out the instruments that Haydn does not use. You do not need to *draw* all the instruments (unless you particularly want to); just draw the ground plan with the colours and write in the names in the correct places. Now you can use the plan. Listen to some more of Haydn's Military symphony and see if you can identify the different sections of the orchestra from your plan.



Colour key:

- strings (the string section is like a massive string quartet⁵ with the addition of double basses)
- woodwind (instruments you blow into)
- brass (instruments you blow a “raspberry” into)
- percussion (instruments you hit)

Some musical (and military) history

The percussion instruments that Haydn includes in the second “military” movement of this symphony were the instruments used in the military Janissary bands of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire. Not only does Haydn include Janissary style percussion he also uses the woodwind department together as a group without the strings at times to imitate the Janissary band's wind instruments. The Austro-Turkish War had ended only three years before in 1791. The fierce Ottoman Turks had crossed the Danube River and invaded Austrian ruled territory – and Haydn was

⁴ This is the American term for what we call a Cor Anglais in Britain.

⁵ We listened to a string quartet on April 1st.

an Austrian composer. There is an exciting trumpet call too, perhaps this is the Austrian army approaching the enemy!

The exotic sounds of the Janissary bands signalled the approach of a cruel invader which probably inspired terror in all who heard it. Here is a modern Janissary band and they would certainly frighten me! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0Fyf63qL_E The “Turning March” begins at about 0.45 secs. Here you can see the exotic instruments that Haydn was imitating.

Activity

If you study how the Janissaries do their Turning March you should be able to have a go at doing it yourselves. Clear as much floor space as you can and march in time to the band. If you have no space you can still march (and turn) on the spot.

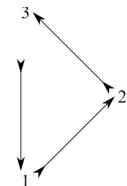
Learn to Conduct an Orchestra

The orchestra's conductor helps the orchestra keep together and achieve the composer's intended effects. He does this in part by using what has been called an “international code.”⁶ of hand movements with his right hand leaving his left hand free to indicate expressive effects such as loud and soft.

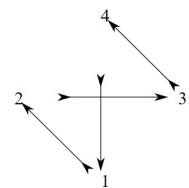
If the music has a two-beat pattern like a march (because we have *two* legs!) the hand/arm movement “code” is:



If the music has a three-beat pattern like a minuet or waltz the “code” is:



A four beat pattern is:



You can see all this demonstrated beautifully here in a series of lessons in conducting which starts with the four beat pattern: <https://www.classicfm.com/artists/marin-alsop/guides/masterclass-beating-time>

If you watch this demonstration you should be able to conduct for yourself in time to the music of Haydn's Military symphony's second movement. The music has a two-beat pattern so all you need is a simple down-up movement with your right hand/arm. If you want to try the three beat pattern, the third movement is a Minuet and begins at 13:18.

If there has been a bit too much music for you today you might like to follow up the ideas on the next page instead.

⁶ Once again we see codes carry information as in the lesson for April 30th.

History

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) died on 5th May. You can read all about him in the Optional Resources file. What is the building in the picture and why is it connected with Napoleon?⁷



Something to cook:

Napoleon Biscuits

Ingredients:

4 oz plain flour

1 oz granulated sugar

3 oz butter

1 oz ground almonds or 1 oz fine semolina or ground rice and ½ teaspoon almond essence

Raspberry jam

Put all the ingredients except the jam into a bowl and work in the butter as you would for pastry.

Roll 1/8" thick and cut into fingers. Cook in a very moderately-heated oven until a pale biscuit colour.

Cool, and sandwich together with jam.

Sprinkle with icing sugar.

Flight and space records

Amy Johnson (1903-1941) left England for her solo flight to Australia on 5th May 1930. What record did she make? She flew between **Croydon Airport** and **Darwin**, Australia. Find them on a map and calculate the distance.

The first American in space was launched today in 1961. Can you find out who he was?

⁷ It is a Martello Tower built as part of Britain's coastal defences against the threat of invasion by Napoleon.