



# WCCS Recommends

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## Music Through the Ages

Perfect pitches for boys age 4 – 13 (Click on images to hear the music)

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### Reception (Age 4-5)

#### The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Dukas)

Used in Disney's *Fantasia*, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* tells a story.

Can you spot the different speeds and volumes? How do these tell the story?

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### Year 1 (Age 5-6)

#### Carnival of the Animals (Saint-Saens)

A range of zoo animals in musical form, and in contrasting styles.

Which animals does the music portray? What words describe the style of each section? Can you tell the instruments?

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### Year 2 (Age 6-7)

#### Peter and the Wolf (Prokofiev)

A musical story that all boys enjoy.

How are instruments used to portray each character? How does the music change as the story gets more exciting? Which instruments are used for the hunters?

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### Year 3 (Age 7-8)

#### The Nutcracker, Sugar Plum pas de deux, (Tchaikovsky)

Tchaikovsky is a great introduction to ballet and stylistic contrasts.

What are the dynamics of the piece? Does it have 2, 3 or 4 beats in each bar? What kind of ballet movement is 'pas de deux'? What does it mean when the ballerina goes 'en pointe'?



#### Year 4 (Age 8-9)

##### **The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra (Britten)**

Britten presents the full scope of the orchestra, and the capabilities of each instrument.

Can you identify each family of instruments at the start? Can you name each instrument as it is introduced? Which instruments reintroduce the tune at the very end?

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#### Year 5 (Age 9-10)

##### **Clapping Music (Reich)**

Reich's minimalism pushes the boundaries of what music can be.

Which elements of music does the piece have, and which is it missing? Can this be a piece of music without them? What do you think the term 'phase shifting' means?

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#### Year 6 (Age 10-11)

##### **L'Orfeo (Monteverdi)**

Monteverdi's opera introduced a new genre of music and heralded the Baroque period.

Can you identify any of the instruments used in this introduction? What is strange about the harmony of the opening fanfare? What do you think is its purpose in the theatre?

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#### Year 7 (Age 11-12)

##### **O Magnum Mysterium (Lauridsen)**

Lauridsen sets a medieval text in reflective mood, sung here by Westminster Cathedral Choir. (Who else?)

Can you describe the texture of this piece? How does Lauridsen use dynamics to create contrast? Find an English translation of the Latin text – does the musical form match the words?



**Year 8 (Age 12-13)**  
**4' 33" (John Cage)**

Many walked out of the premiere of this piece!

Does this piece count as music? Is it really silent? Does it have any of the traditional 'elements of music'? What point was John Cage trying to make about what music can be?