

This week, I would like you to listen to "Lark Ascending" by Vaughan Williams. It's a very beautiful and very famous piece of music. Listen to "Lark Ascending" by Vaughan Williams:

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1qJzptdT7pvzCq59PGWXS1P/the-lark-ascending-by-ralph-vaughan-williams#:~:text=The%20Lark%20Ascending%20was%20inspired,World%20War%20I%20broke%20out>)

The Molly Rainford introduction includes snippets and images, the full orchestral version video is a little longer but you can see all of the instruments playing live! I especially like watching the violinist (the person who plays the violin) as I can't play the violin but find it very impressive how she can remember all of those notes (and in the right order...) for the piece of music! All of the other musicians have the music in front of them but because she is the soloist (the one person who is the most important part in this piece of music), she doesn't have the music in front of her.

In this particular recording, the solo violinist is a famous musician. I think she does an amazing job of playing this piece. It's also a rather tricky piece for her to play as it gets very high pitched (you can see her fingers on the black board of the violin moving closer to her face and higher up the string when she plays the high notes) and she does a clever thing called double stopping. This means that she plays more than one note at a time (which is very easy to do on a piano- you just use a different finger and press down on more than one note!) and this is tricky for violins because the strings are close together...Miss Brearey will stop getting overexcited about violins now!

Vaughan Williams is a famous British composer (this means writing music was his job), inspired by Britain at the time.

What can you hear in this piece of music? What words would you use to describe what you can hear? Instruments? Speed? Mood? Do you like this piece of music? Why? Why not?

Draw a picture of the scene or image that this piece of music creates in your mind. You might be inspired by the video on the BBC website. There are also some interesting facts about the composer on the BBC website for you to explore.