

Learning to play recorder

Key composer, genre and instruments

Night on a Bare Mountain
Modest Petrovich
Mussorgsky (1839-1881)



Mussorgsky was a Russian composer known for composing operas (stories in song). His mother was a pianist and, by the time he was 7, Mussorgsky could already play simple music pieces by famous composers.

He wrote 65 pieces of music, mainly about Russian life. *Night on a Bare Mountain* is about a group of witches who come out and dance, but disappear when the sun comes up. The piece is for the full orchestra. Listen out for bassoons, trombones and tubas playing the dramatic theme.

Modest Mussorgsky wrote a number of different versions of this piece of music. When he was finally satisfied with it, his music teacher told him it wasn't good enough so he put it aside for years. Eventually his friend and fellow composer Rimsky-Korsakov re-arranged the music for orchestra and this is the piece we know today.



Key Skills

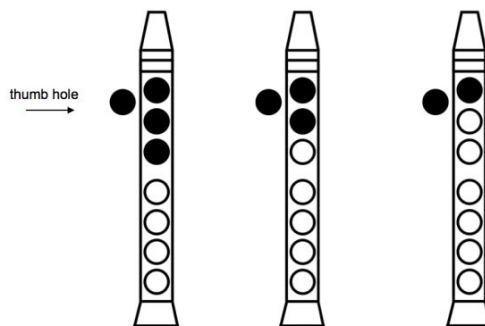
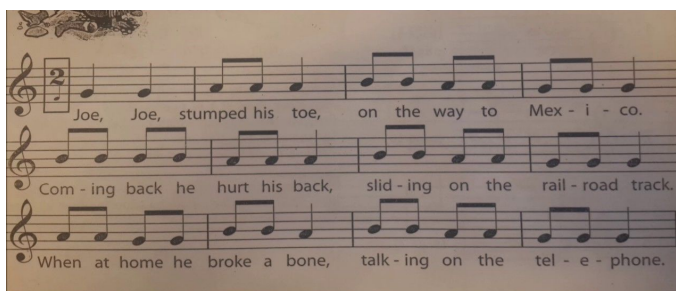
Learn to play notes B, A, G, C and read music on a staff.

Improvise own tunes using the known notes.

Write down a short melody using a staff, using known notes.

Play in time with the music, recognising rests.

Move between notes without squeaking.



Relevant songs

Night on a Bare Mountain - Mussorgsky
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1gKvMXSQVvqyfcv1Xjinkr5/a-night-on-the-bare-mountain-by-modest-mussorgsky>

Samba C-A
Joe Joe stumped his toe
Short recorder pieces from Charanga

Key Vocabulary

crotchet	A one beat note.
quaver	Worth half a crotchet.
minim	A two beat note.
semibreve	A four beat note.
crotchet rest	A silence for one beat.
treble clef	Symbol showing high notes, played above middle C.
stave	Five lines music is drawn on.
improvise	To make up something on the spot.
compose	To write down your musical idea.
bar	A section of music separated by a line on the stave.

