

Air from Holberg Suite

Teacher Resources

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Information



Activity 3 Listen



Activity 1 **Listen**



Activity 2 **Perform**

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Introduction

The Holberg Suite was arranged for string orchestra by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg in 1884. It is an example of Neoclassicism – where composers used forms and styles from earlier times.

Subtitled "Suite from Holberg's Time", it is based on 18th century dances. It was written to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of playwright Ludvig Holberg (1684–1754).





Listen to Air from the Holberg Suite

Listen to Air from Holberg Suite - [CLICK HERE](#)

1. What is the tempo of this work? What musical term would describe it?
2. What is the mood of the piece? How do the elements of music create it?
3. Written in 2 flats, what is the key signature?
4. What family of instruments perform the piece?
5. The outline of the melody is simple but made interesting by ornamentation. On the outline below mark where additional short ornamental notes can be heard.



The image displays two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a single melodic line in 3/4 time, starting with a half note, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note, another quarter rest, and a quarter note with a grace note. The bottom staff is divided into two parts: 'Cello' and 'Violin'. The Cello part consists of a series of quarter notes, and the Violin part consists of a series of quarter notes, some with grace notes.



Improvise your own version

1. Improvise your own embellishment of the simple tune on the previous page playing your instrument.
2. Use the Jupiter hymn theme from the Planets or another simple tune and create an ornamented version of it which can be played in your instrument.
3. Add dynamics and other expressive devices and rehearse.
4. Perform for the class. Identify the strengths of each arrangement.





Listen

Look at the piano score of the Air and follow the melody line to see how elaborate Grieg has made this simple tune.

4. Air.

Andante religioso.
cantabile

The piano score for '4. Air' by Edvard Grieg is presented in five systems. The first system begins with a piano (p) dynamic and a 'cantabile' marking. The second system continues the melody with various ornaments and dynamics. The third system features a 'cresc.' (crescendo) marking. The fourth system includes a 'molto' marking. The fifth system concludes with a 'piu ritard.' (more ritardando) and a 'pp' (pianissimo) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ornaments, and dynamic markings.