

# Handel Allegro from Suite No.1 in F

Teacher Resources

Activities in this pack:



Information



Activity 1 **Listen**



Activity 2 **Learn**



Activity 3 **Learn**



Activity 4 **Create**



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## Introduction

Handel was born in 1685 in Germany and died in 1759 in London, England.

In 1717, King George I asked Handel to provide music for an orchestra of about 50 musicians, who would perform on a barge on the River Thames. Handel provided about an hour's worth of music for the performance and King George listened from another barge, nearby. It's said that King George was so delighted with the performance, he asked for the music to be played three more times!

The performance was a huge event. People lined the banks of the River Thames, and all types of boats were in the water. Afterwards, the music performed on the barge became known as Water Music and was later published.

This movement, the Allegro, is in a three-part structure similar to that used by Handel for his songs. It sounds festive, with thrilling writing for the natural horns, creating an exuberant atmosphere.





## Listen and copy

This piece has 3 parts: A B A

The first part, A, is like an echo clapping, or copy me, activity: the horns play a pattern and the other instruments imitate them.

a) Listen to Allegro from the start to 1'23" to hear this copy cat idea:

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO ALLEGRO](#)

b) Listen to the excerpt again and copy the patterns on your knees along with the copying instruments.





## Research Handel's Water Music

What information can students discover?

This music is called the water music because King George I in 1717 asked for music for a party he held on the River Thames near London. The orchestra were on one barge floating in the river and guests were on other boats.

There were no microphones or speakers, so to have music at an outdoor event you needed to have live musicians. The king was so delighted with the new work that he asked to hear it over and over and they had to play for about 4 hours straight! There was food and drink and entertainment and 50 musicians playing in Handel's Orchestra.

Task: While listening to the piece a few times, students either:

- Write a newspaper report about the event where this music was performed.
- Draw their impression of what the scene on the river looked like at that first performance.



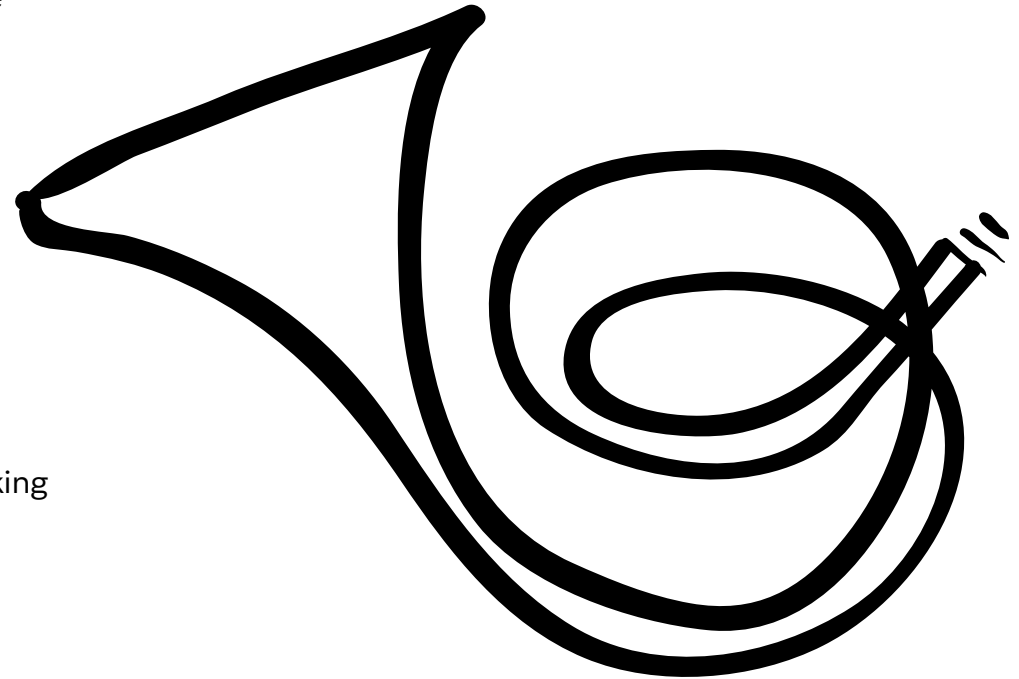


## Research Natural Horns

This piece is particularly interesting because it was one of the first to feature the natural horn.

[Listen to the TSO natural horns CLICK HERE](#)

- a) What is a natural horn?
- b) How is a natural horn different to a modern horn?
- c) Which do you think would be harder to play and why?
- d) Listen to the natural horns playing by themselves by clicking the link above
- e) Draw a diagram of the natural horn





## Play your own fanfare

1. The natural horn was often used to play a limited set of notes.

An F horn mostly played notes F, A and C – notes of the F chord

A C horn played the notes C, E and G – notes of the C chord

What notes would a D horn play? (DFA)

What notes would an A horn play? (ACE)

2. The horn is played by buzzing with the lips like blowing a raspberry. Clap a 4 beat rhythm and have the class buzz the rhythm back like horn players.

3. Using a chime bar, xylophone or keyboard app play only the notes C E G.

- Ask class to echo your patterns on their “horns”:
- Play a pattern on the C note only
- Play a pattern using C and E notes alternating
- Play another pattern that uses C and G notes only
- Improvise a short pattern using all 3 notes

4. Allow the students to make their own horn fanfare





## Listen to the Horn part

Study the horn part from the score:

The image shows a musical score for two horns, H1 and H2, in 3/4 time. The first system (measures 1-6) shows H1 playing a sequence of eighth notes and quarter notes, while H2 plays a similar pattern. The second system (measures 7-10) shows H1 playing a series of eighth notes, and H2 playing a series of eighth notes. The score is written in treble clef.

### Observe:

- This music is in treble clef. Write the note name below each note if needed.
- What is the highest and lowest note played?
- What happens on the first beat of bar 1?
- What notes are mostly played in this excerpt?
- How many beats are there in each bar?
- So what type of horns was the piece written for?

### Listen

- Listen to the opening and mark the places where the horns play trills or additional notes
- Describe the sound of the horns



## Learn to play the Horn part

Learn to play the horn parts from the opening of the piece in either 2 groups or playing both lines together.

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has two staves, H1 and H2, both in treble clef and 3/4 time. The second system also has two staves, H1 and H2, both in treble clef and 3/4 time. The music is written in a simple, rhythmic style with eighth and quarter notes, and rests. A fermata is placed over the final note of the H2 staff in the second system.



It was normal to add ornaments to a tune in Handel's time and use changes of dynamics to make repeated ideas more interesting. With a partner explore adding ornaments and dynamic changes to create your own interesting interpretation of this excerpt.