

Cartoon Classics

Teacher Resources

Activities in this pack:



Information



Activity 3 **Create**



Activity 1 **Listen**



Activity 4 **Listen**



Activity 2 **Listen**

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Introduction

Most early cartoons have no dialogue. The music must do the bulk of the work in helping you interpret what you are seeing. This meant setting a scene, reflecting the action and showing the mood of the characters.

To start with, cartoon scores would be compilations of well-known tunes. This helped your ears pick out the story. A tune you recognise as being about love or fighting or sadness helped the audience know what was happening on the screen. Orchestral music became an important part of this mix adding to the mood and style of the cartoon. Soon cartoons were built around the music, often parodying the peculiarities of the classical music world and the business of going to a concert.

The concert will feature a number of pieces from a range of cartoons, which demonstrate the familiarity of the sounds of the orchestra and influence of classical music in all our lives. A number of the works performed are explored in this resource which explores the distinct roles of music in a cartoon.





Making music the story

Scott Bradley was musical director for many Tom and Jerry cartoons, and brought classical music to the animation world through cartoons like *Cat Concerto* in 1947.

[Click here to view](#)

Carl Stalling was musical director of Looney Toons at Warner Brothers for 30 years. He worked on over six hundred cartoons. He collaborated on such titles as *Rhapsody Rabbit*, using piano solo Hungarian Rhapsody by Franz Liszt

[Click here to view](#)

The Rabbit of Seville features a number of tunes from Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville*, humorously stages as an opera with Bugs and Elmer Fudd and the story is told through song.

[Click here to view](#)

What's Opera, Doc? delivers the dialogue with tunes from Wagner's *Ring Cycle* –one of the most famous operas ever written.

[Click here to view](#) *Kill the Wabbit*

Our TSO Concert is going to start with *What's Up at the Symphony?*, a medley featuring these and other tunes from *Bugs Bunny*, along with the famous overture and ending themes of these much loved cartoons.

[Click here to listen](#)





Listen and Imagine

Listen to the Spotify track Peer Gynt Suite No.1 Op.46 I. Morning Mood with your eyes closed and imagine your own sunrise scene.

[Click here for the TSO Spotify Playlist](#)

What happens in the music to make you think of each of the stages of a sunrise?
Which instruments are good for this sort of calm music?

Without telling the students the title of the piece, play Chicken Reel from the Spotify play list.

Ask them what sort of scene this music might be used for and what parts of the music made them think that.

Explain that Leroy Anderson's Chicken Reel usually introduces the chicken yard scene in many Foghorn Leghorn cartoons. It is a fiddle tune and along with Turkey in the Straw is the musical backdrop to the Foghorn Leghorn Cartoons.





Music Mirroring the Action

Powerhouse by Raymond Scott featured in hundreds of cartoons. Listen to it on our Spotify playlist.

[Click here for the Spotify Playlist](#)

- How would you describe this music?
- What type of mood would this music suit?
- What in the music could you hear to reflect that?
- Identify any words in the box below that apply to the music.

Fast paced
Use of repeated patterns
Sudden changes of volume
Constant speed
Soft lullaby tunes
Constantly moving
Only uses high sounds

Now Predict: What sort of activity do you think it would be used for in a cartoon?

Then look at the clip: [Click here to view](#)





The Cartoon Theme songs

Two famous theme songs will be included in our concert.

The Pink Panther Theme

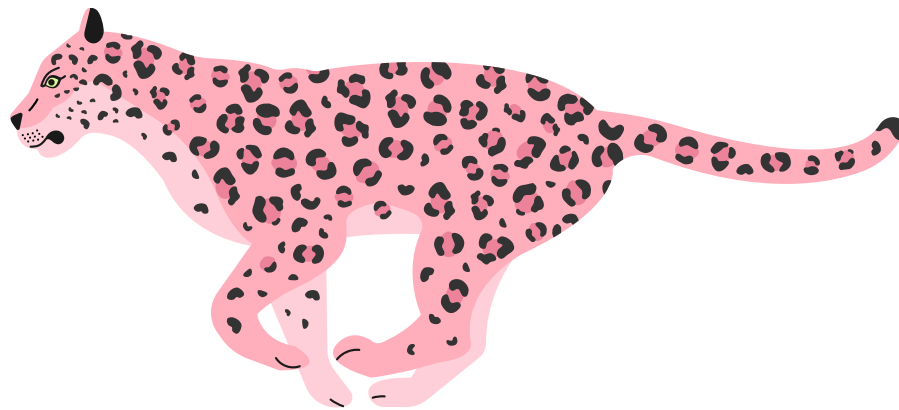
This theme became famous through the Inspector Clouseau parody detective series, and *Pink Panther* animated short cartoons.

[Click here to view](#)

The Flintstones

The Flintstones theme opened and closed every show about that modern stone aged family.

[Click here to view](#)



Compare these two theme tunes.

- What about the music is similar?
- What difference can you describe?
- What differences are there between the two cartoon stories?
- How is this reflected in the music written for each of their cartoons?

Older students might watch the evolution of cartoon music played by a pianist covering the years 1928-2020.

[Click here to view](#)

How has the musical style developed over the years?
What musical styles can the students name?