

# Echoes and Threads

Teacher Resources

Activities in this pack:



Information



Activity 3 **Create**



Activity 1 **Perform**



Activity 4 **Learn**



Activity 2 **Move**

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## Introduction

Composer: Lisa Cheney (1987-)  
Genre: Australian Contemporary

Lisa Cheney was born in 1987 in Sydney and grew up in Queensland, on the Gold Coast.

Lisa will soon complete a PhD in music composition at the University of Melbourne and is passionate about championing new composition. She co-founded 'Making Waves', a monthly series of curated playlists for streaming, that feature many new Australian compositions. Lisa was also an executive producer of 'Making Conversation: Australian Composers' Podcast' and in 2017, she was named the Victorian Young Achiever of the Year for Arts.

Lisa is an accomplished composer and has written works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, voice, acousmatic collaborations, theatre, ballet and opera. She was part of a national collaboration of female artists and arts professionals who created The Owl and the Pussycat, a landmark musical work for children that premiered on Surfers Paradise beach as part of Festival 2018.





## Sing the Peterskaya

The Peterskaya is the name of the main road between St Petersburg and Moscow and a troika is a carriage drawn by three horses.

Along the Peterskaya is a very well-known Russian folk song, with many versions readily available. Some have excellent video footage of a troika in full flight.

[Here is a version by the Red Army Choir.](#)

The melody has been used by many composers, initially to impart a sense of Russian Nationalism to their music. These include Stravinsky (Dances des Nounous from his ballet Petrouchka) and Balakirev (Themes 2 and 3 from his Overture on Russian Themes). Australian composer Lisa Cheney, who was commissioned to create an arrangement for the TSO, is following a well-established practice. She has taken it a step further with her stand-alone piece Echoes and Threads, inspired by the melody. Learn the original song here:

Sing along with the TSO - [Vocal part here](#)  
[Orchestral accompaniment here](#)

### Peterskaya

Trad Russian

I love to see my young man drive his troi - ka a - long the Pe - ter -  
 7  
 ska - ya; O! with the hand - bells ring - ing joy - ous - ly. Ah! \_\_\_





## Dance the Troika

Troika is a word that means “three”.

In groups of three, students hold hands in a row of three people. They trot 16 beats forwards.

Still holding hands, the person on the right steps under the other dancers’ hands and around the back of the middle dancer. Then the person on the left does the same.

The three dancers all link hands and trot in a circle for 16 beats.

Watch the video clip below to see the Troika in action.

[Watch the Troika Dance here](#)

[Music to Dance to here](#)





## Create a Storyboard

Watch a video of composer, Lisa Cheney, describing her work “Echoes and Threads”.

[WATCH HERE](#)

Her new work sounds very different to the original “Along the Peterskaya”. Listen to the piece and create your own storyboard for what you imagine.

A storyboard is like a comic strip that film makers use to plan their movies before making them. It is like a visual timeline of what happens.

Share your storyboards with the class. Discuss why you thought of these images when you heard the music.

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
Scene:	Scene:	Scene:



## Cross-Curricular activities - Learn about Russia

You have learned a traditional Russian folk dance and heard a new representation of the main melody. Learn more about the Troika and other folk dances. Explore Russia. You may like to learn about:

- Food
- Architecture
- Traditional dress
- Traditional instruments
- Where is Russia on a map of the World?

