

Overture to the Marriage of Figaro

Teacher Resources

Activities in this pack:



Information



Activity 1 **Perform**



Introduction

An overture is a work written for orchestra to be played at the beginning of a performance like a play or a musical or opera.

The Marriage of Figaro, or *Le nozze di Figaro*, was written by Mozart and first performed in 1786. The story is a comedy, and Mozart's musical style features the characteristics of the classical period music.





Listen to the rhythms

1. Clap the following rhythms one at a time then play as one long pattern



2. How has the rhythmic pattern grown from A to C?
3. What does the time signature mean?
4. Practice the pattern as fast as they can play it until the tempo is presto.
5. Listen to the opening of this excerpt. Can you hear the rhythm?

Below are examples of how Mozart builds an idea creating musical climax:

