

# BRAHMS 3



## JOHANNES BRAHMS

Johannes Brahms was born in Germany on 7 May 1833.  
He played the organ and piano, and was a composer and conductor.



Brahms is 20 years old in this photo.

Brahms came from a poor family and lived in the slums of the German city of Hamburg. His father was a musician and his mother a dressmaker. Brahms was 6 years old when he invented his own system for writing music. When he was 13, he was already working as a pianist in cafés and played folk songs to earn a few pennies.

### ACTIVITY: Connect the pictures with the right words:

Organist

Pianist

Composer

Conductor

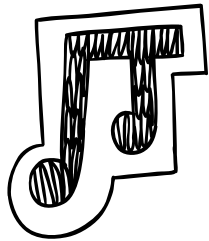
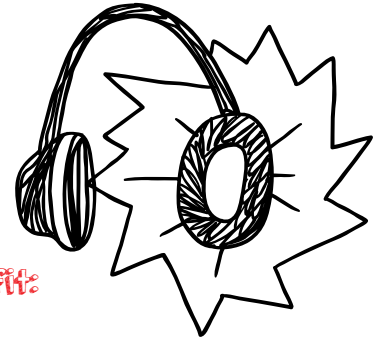
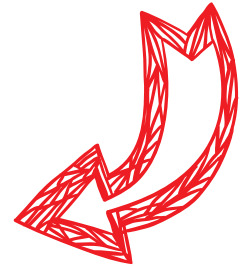


Brahms composed a lot of music for different instruments, orchestras and choirs. He spent 20 years working on his first symphony - that's a long time, eh?!

He wrote 4 symphonies, and today we are going to talk about his 3rd symphony. Brahms wrote this work in just 4 months - pretty quick, eh?! He composed it in the summer of 1883, when he was on holiday in Wiesbaden.

Can you figure out how old he was then? ..... years old.

The symphony is in the key of F Major. That means that F is the most important note. The first three notes are F (fa), A flat, F (fa). Some people say that Brahms was trying to send a secret message with the letters: 'Frei Aber Froh'. That is German for 'free but happy', and might refer to the fact that he never married.



**Cross out what doesn't fit:**

Would you like to get married?

yes - no - maybe

If you remain single, how would you feel?

Happy - lonely - free - sad

The symphony is written for 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani and strings.



**ACTIVITY:** Circle the instruments that play in this symphony

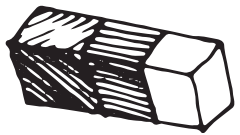


# THE THIRD SYMPHONY IN 4 MOVEMENTS

The symphony is made up of four movements:

## FIRST MOVEMENT: *Allegro con brio*

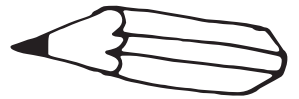
*Allegro* means 'fast' and *con brio* means 'fiery or 'lively'.  
This first movement of the symphony has a heroic beginning.  
Heroic means 'brave' or 'like a hero'.



### ACTIVITY:

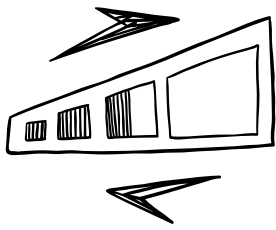


Listen to the first movement of the 3rd Symphony by Brahms while you draw a comic strip about your hero. Who is your favourite hero and what heroic adventures will he or she go on? Let the music inspire you! Think up a title once you finish your story.



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## SECOND MOVEMENT: *Andante*

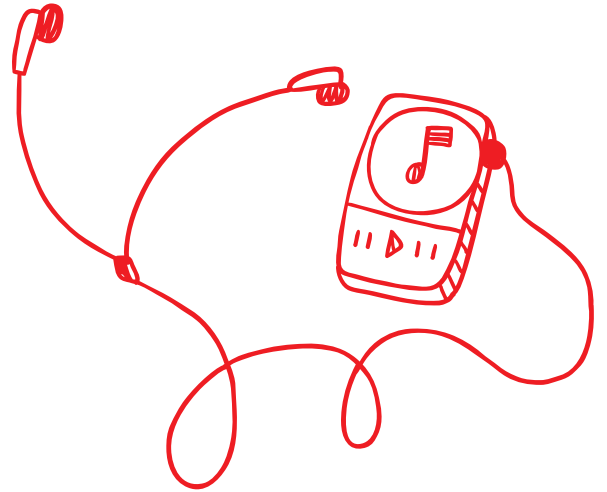
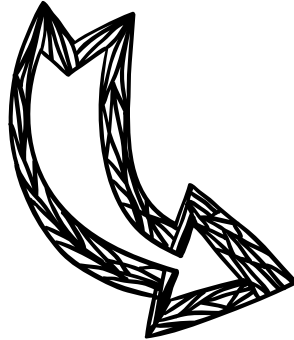
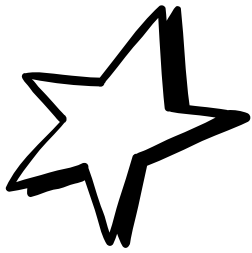
*Andante* means 'slow and calm'

In this movement, the clarinet often has the word. Sometimes it seems like the clarinets are in conversation with the cellos. You can also hear that Johannes was enjoying his holiday and that he was very relaxed.

### ACTIVITY:



Put on the music, lie down and close your eyes, as we are going on an imaginary voyage. You are on holiday and can choose anywhere you want to go. To a forest, the seaside, a distant country? Everything is possible, and you feel very nice and relaxed. Where will you go?



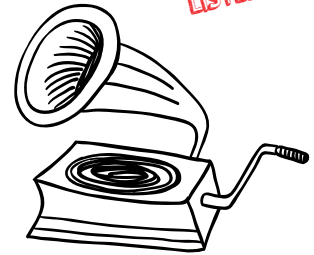
## THIRD MOVEMENT: *Poco allegretto*

*Poco* means 'a little' and *allegretto* means 'lively and excited'

This movement is the best-known part of the Third Symphony and is often used in movies or series. For example, in the popular anime series 'Legend of the galactic heroes'. Frank Sinatra also wrote a song based on it that you can listen to here:



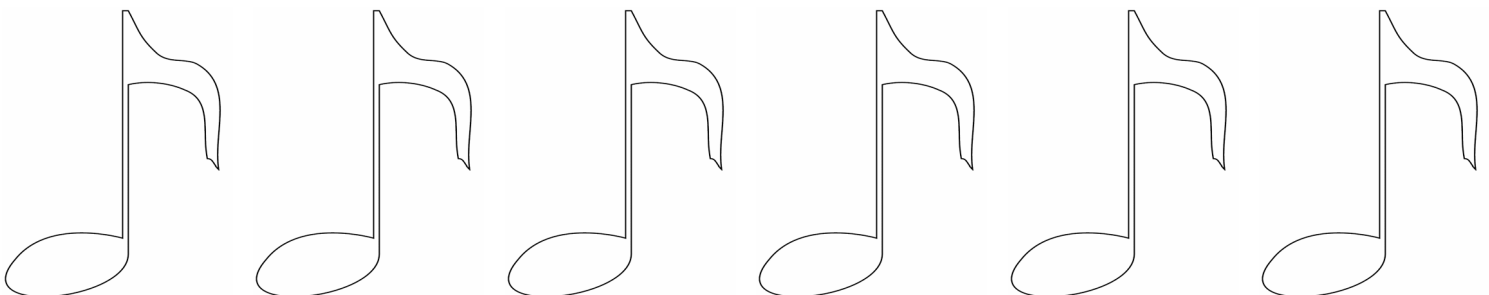
The piece of music you see below is the main theme that is often repeated in the movement.



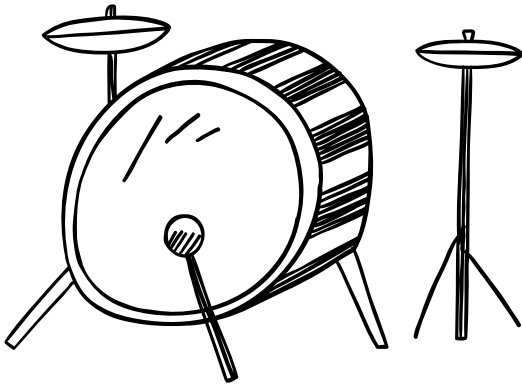
### ACTIVITY:



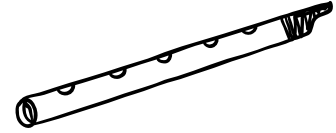
Take a coloured pencil in your hand and put on the music. Colour in a musical note whenever you hear the theme return. Write below it which instrument played it.



## FOURTH MOVEMENT 4: Allegro



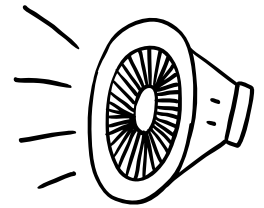
The last movement is played in a faster tempo again, and sounds super exciting! What else will happen to our heroes from the first movement? It sounds like a whirlwind! Like every movement, the fourth movement also ends quietly, not with a BOOM on the timpani drums as you might expect, but with a quiet whisper in the instruments.



### ACTIVITY:



Take a sheet of paper and coloured pencils. Come up with your own system to write down what you hear. You can do so with or without lines. You can use different colours for the different instruments. Listen for the high and low notes, fast and slow, loud and soft. How will you show these differences on paper? Good luck!



THANK YOU FOR COMING ALONG ON THE VOYAGE THROUGH  
THE 3RD SYMPHONY OF JOHANNES BRAHMS!

