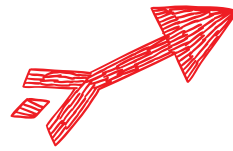


MAHLER



**SYMPHOMANIA!
DO IT YOURSELF**

SYMPHONY NO. 1



Today, we are listening to the First Symphony by Gustav Mahler, also known as the Titan Symphony.

Symphony No. 1

Mahler wrote his First Symphony between 1884 and 1888 and conducted the première in November 1889 in Budapest. The symphony has 4 movements.

The First Symphony was given the title 'Titan' after the novel of the same title by Jean Paul Richter.

Mahler wrote 10 symphonies in all.

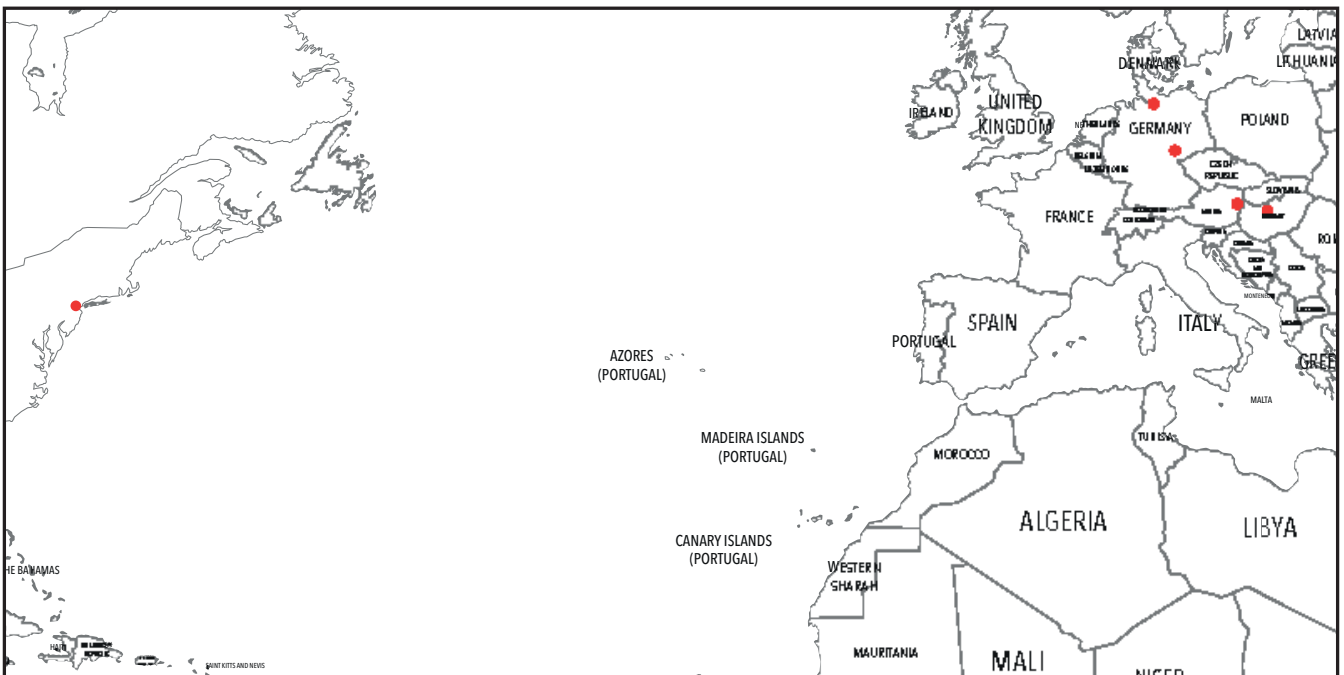


ACTIVITY: AROUND THE WORLD



Mahler worked as a conductor for many great opera houses and orchestras around the world. Can you link each city with the right point on the map of the world?
Budapest – Vienna – Hamburg - New York - Leipzig

-
-
-
-
-



QUESTIONS:

Mahler did not earn enough as a composer, so after finishing his first symphony, he decided to return to his career as a conductor. A fantastically successful career!

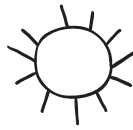
What would you like to be when you grow up?

.....

During the holidays, Mahler withdrew to one of his 'composing huts' to write his symphonies.

Where do you like to go when you want to be alone?

.....



Listen to the first movement of the symphony: the awakening of nature.

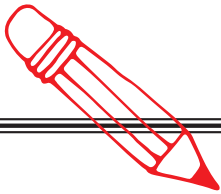
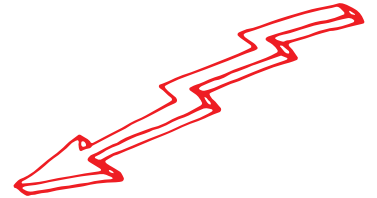


ACTIVITY: THE HUT

What would your 'composing hut' look like? Would it be a tree house?

A flying hut or a hut made of thousands of candies?

Draw your dream hut here!





Listen to the second movement of the symphony, "Ländler". That's an Austrian country dance in 3/4 time. Can you dance to it?

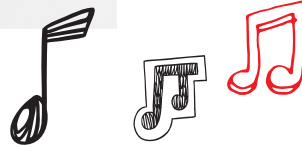


Listen to the third movement of the symphony.



How many timpani drum beats do you hear at the beginning of the third movement before the melody begins?
Can you count them?

.....

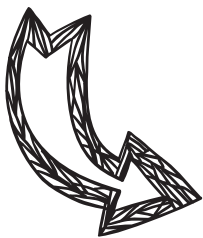


The opening melody of the third movement of Mahler's First Symphony will sound familiar. What melody do you recognize?

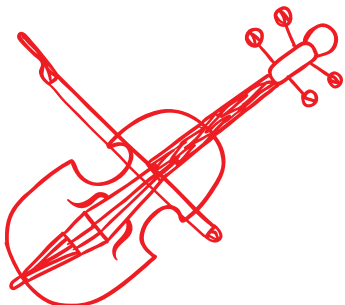
.....



But Mahler gave it a particular twist: the children's song has become a funeral march. The melody is now in a minor key, which makes it sound mournful, and it is accompanied by a march rhythm in soft timpani beats. Mahler was inspired for this movement by a children's illustration by his compatriot Moritz Ludwig von Schwind. It shows a funeral march of animals pass by, carrying a dead hunter to his grave.

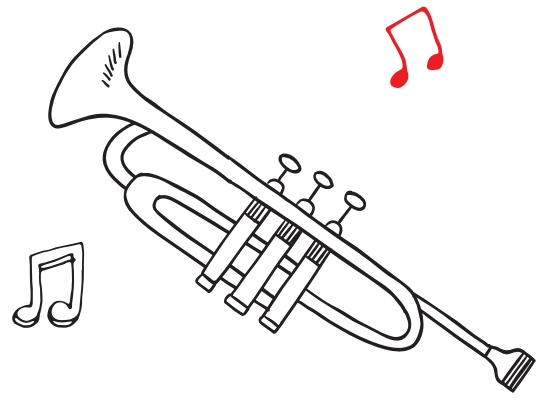


Mahler has various instruments of the orchestra play Frère Jacques as a canon. A solo double bass starts it off, followed by the bassoon, cello, bass tuba and so on. The instruments thus form the procession shown on the drawing, as if each instrument represented a different animal in the funeral march. The animals do their best to look mournful, but they are of course secretly happy that the hunter is dead. This is why the funeral march is full of irony. Here and there, Mahler uses cheerful little tunes and festive music, as if the animals were secretly rejoicing and celebrating.



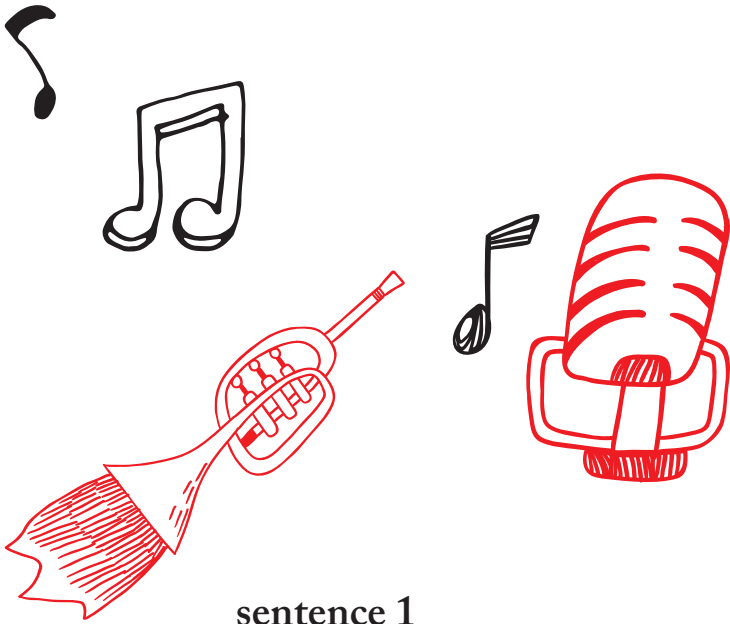
What is a canon?

A canon is a polyphonic composition in which the various voices start the same melody one after the other and imitate each other. This means one voice begins the tune, and a little later, while the first melody is still being played, a second voice starts playing the same melody. And in a good canon, that all sounds very lovely together! Why don't you try it out with your friends or family using the melody of Frère Jacques (Brother John)?



ACTIVITY: LET'S SING

After the timpani rolls, Mahler uses the melody of Frère Jacques. Listen to the symphony and write the text down below.



What is this symbol?
It's known as a 'repeat' sign. It means that you have to repeat the measure or the sentence once. In the Frère Jacques melody, you have to be careful since we have to sing every sentence twice, but you need to write it down once only, since there is a repeat sign!

sentence 1

.....



sentence 2

.....



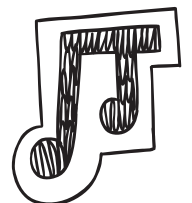
sentence 3

.....



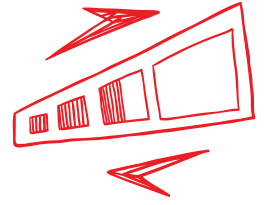
sentence 4

.....



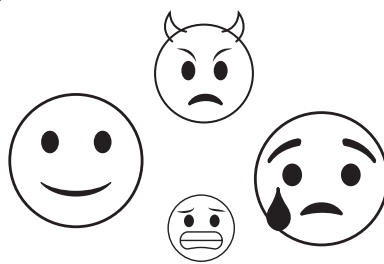
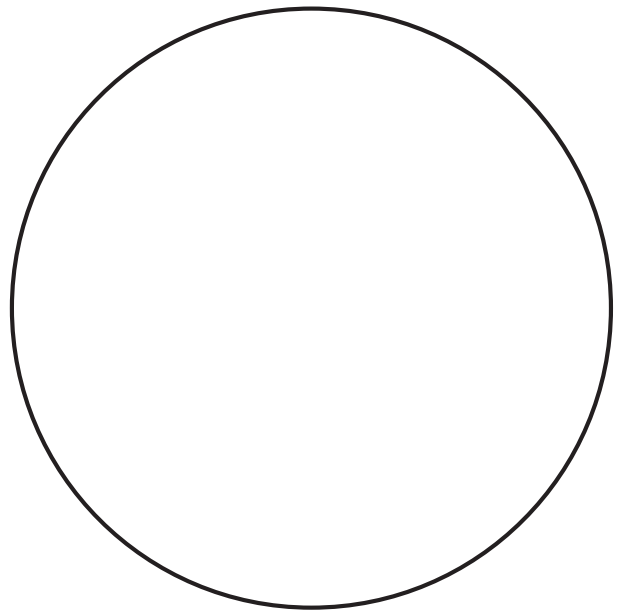
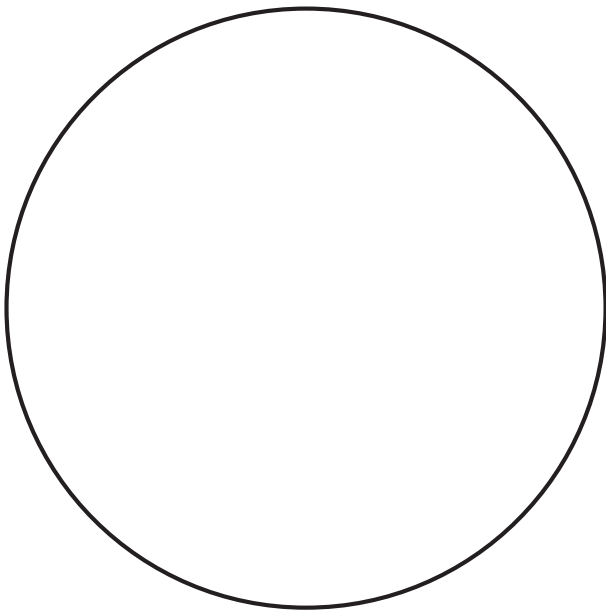
DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Mahler changed the melody to Frère Jacques from a major key (cheerful) to a minor key (sad)?

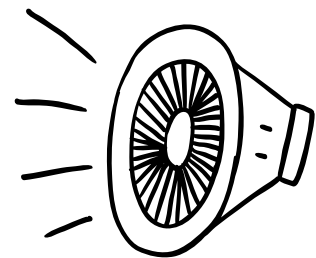


The major key is cheerful!
Draw your happiest face!

The minor key is sad.
Draw your saddest face.



Watch and listen to the finale: the fourth part of the symphony. In this final movement, the calm is over and all the musicians give their utmost!



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Mahler originally wrote this symphony for 103 musicians! Can you count the musicians in the video clip?

