

Worksheet 2

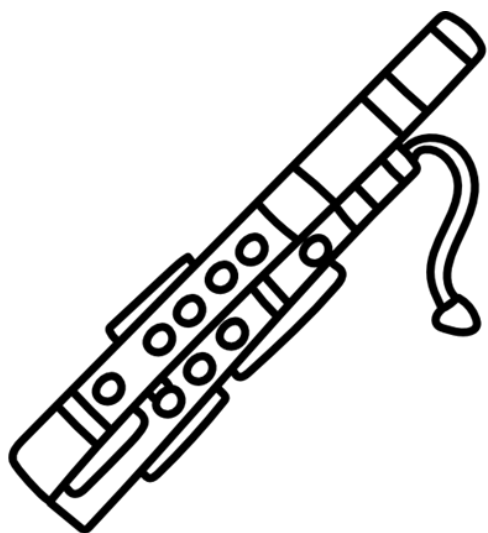
Let's focus on:

Instrument: Bassoon

Musician: Olivia

Movement: Gnomus

Musical Concept: Time Signature



Pictures at an Exhibition | Gnomus (The Gnomus)

This piece of music was inspired by a sketch of a little gnome, clumsily running with crooked legs. Hartmann's sketch, now lost, is thought to represent a design for a nutcracker displaying large teeth. The lurching music, in contrasting tempos with frequent stops and starts, suggests the movements of the gnome.

Time Signature: a notational convention used to specify how many beats (pulses) are contained in each measure (bar), and which note value is equivalent to a beat; how we count and feel the beats (pulse).

3/4 Time Signature



Artwork

The Goat in the Night (2020) by Heather Jane Kent, Chemainus, BC; watercolour & ink pens

Observation & Comprehension

1. Olivia started playing the bassoon because there was already someone in her class playing the oboe. Can you think of a time in your life when something good came out of something bad?
2. The sound of a bassoon is called a 'crow'. Why do you think that is? Can you make that sound?
3. Mussorgsky used the bassoon to represent the gnome. Why is this instrument a good choice? Listen to the full movement and tell a story of what the gnome is doing during this music. Make a sketch of the gnome.
4. What have you learned about the bassoon?



Try it!

Clumsy Gnome

Supplies Required: Space to move

Try marching and counting to four at the same time, giving an extra loud "stomp" on every "1". Now try it again with the same stomp on 1, but counting to three. What happens to your body? Do you wobble back and forth a bit? Now you know why Mussorgsky used $\frac{3}{4}$ time to create a picture of a stumbling, wobbly gnome.