

Vocabulary

Bar – A small section of music containing the correct number of beats according to the time signature.

Compose – Creating an original piece of music.

Improvise - Making up a melody as you go along.

Melody – ‘The ‘tune’ of the music determined by the note pitches, rhythm and duration.

Opera – A musical story told through singing, acting and dancing. Operas are most commonly performed in languages such as Italian, French or Spanish.

Tuned percussion - percussion instruments that can play different pitches – xylophones, glockenspiels, chime bars etc.

Untuned percussion - percussion instruments that can only make a limited number of sounds – drums, shakers, claves, tambourines.

Habanera and Toreador – Georges Bizet

What are the features of opera?



About the composer:



Bizet was a French composer who was born in 1838 and died in 1975. He came from a very musical family – his father was a composer and his mother was a pianist – and his own musical talents were obvious from an early age. In fact, he was such a talented child that he was allowed to study at the Paris Conservatoire (music college) when he was just nine years old! Bizet's work remained individual throughout his career - he went on to write operas, symphonies and other orchestral pieces.

Prior learning

Work in KS1 on untuned percussion and rhythm, listening to and appraising ‘The Nutcracker Suite’, improvising and composing rhythms.

Interesting ideas:

Carmen is an opera from 1875. It tells the story of a young factory worker called Carmen, her boyfriend Don Jose and a famous bullfighter called Escamillo. Habanera is the first song Carmen sings. The music perfectly describes her character. Toreador Song is the first song Escamillo sings, it shows off his swagger and confidence.

Useful links:

Follow this link to watch a performance of Toreador from the opera ‘Carmen’.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNPjH01PtZ4>