

Vocabulary

Glissando - a 'slide' between notes, i.e. when a beater is swiped over the notes of a xylophone.

Orchestrate - choose which instruments perform which parts of the music.

Ostinato - A repeating pattern.

Pulse- The steady beat that underpins the rhythm and melody of the music.

Tempo - How fast or slow the music is played.

Melody- The 'tune' of the music created by a combination of the pitch, rhythm and duration.

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

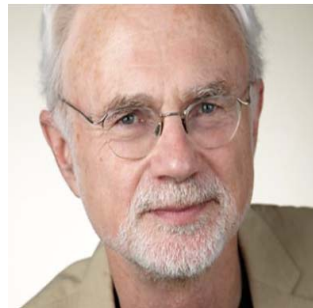
Untuned percussion - percussion instruments that can only make a limited number of sounds - drums, shakers, claves, tambourines.

Short Ride in a Fast Machine - John Adams

What is minimalist music?



About the composer:



John Adams is an American composer, who was born in 1947. He was born in Massachusetts, USA and began writing music when he was about 10. As a student he became fascinated with a slightly older American composer called Steve Reich and his new style of music called minimalism.

Prior learning

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

Interesting ideas:

Minimalism is music made from short musical patterns that are repeated many, many times to create a hypnotic sound. It was developed in the 1960s in New York by composers such as Steve Reich, Philip Glass and Terry Riley, and has become popular worldwide.

Remember, less is more. It's not the notes you play, it's the notes you don't play!

Useful links:

Follow this link to watch a performance of 'Short Ride in a Fast Machine' by John Adams.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LoUm_r7It8