

FIND OUT MORE... composing a fanfare

Your school has a special day in July when it is going to be visited by a Brass Band. We think you'll love it! One thing that brass instruments are great at doing is playing fanfares and today, it's your turn to write and play your own.

Let's watch some fanfares being played!

Fanfare for a Dignified Occasion | Composed by Arthur Bliss | Performed by the London Fanfare Trumpets

Bugler's Dream Olympic Fanfare | Composed by John Williams | Performed by the Bands of HM Royal Marines

Fanfare from the Overture to William Tell | Composed by Giachino Rossini | Performed by the Cory Band

Musical context

What is a fanfare?
What occasion might you hear a fanfare being played at?
Who might a fanfare be written for?

Musical discussion

Does a fanfare use lots of notes or just a few?
Do the notes step up and down or jump?
What makes the fanfare sound like it's announcing something?

Composing your own fanfare

Use your brass instrument or any other instrument you play to compose your own fanfare, using the steps below. You might like to play it to announce the start of your Proms in the Playground event.

You could do this by yourself, with a partner or in a group.

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First

Decide which notes you will use.

Three or four notes is a good number for a fanfare.



Next

Use your instrument to play the notes you have chosen and to work out how your fanfare will sound.

You can use each note and each idea more than once.



Then

Make improvements to your fanfare.

Try adding dynamics (different volumes) or choreography (movement) to make it more interesting.



Finally

Memorise your fanfare and practice it until it is ready to perform at your Proms in the Playground.

Evaluate

Listen to all the fanfares in your class. Choose one or two to be performed at your Proms in the Playground. The whole class might be able to learn to play it together.

Play it again...

Plan some other occasions to play your fanfares at. Perhaps you could play it at the start of your sports day or at a prize giving assembly.