

Vocabulary

Adagio – At a slow speed

Allegro – At a fast speed

Appraising – Listening carefully to a piece of music and saying what you notice.

Composer – A person who writes music.

Improvise - To make up a rhythm or melody and play it on the spot.

Instrumentation – A composer's choice of instruments.

Orchestra – A collection of traditional instruments playing together.

Pitch – How high or low sounds are.

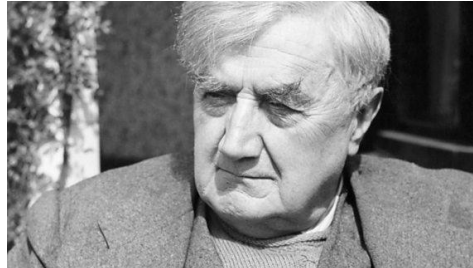
Timbre – The sound quality of the instruments chosen

What instruments are played in an orchestra?

The Lark Ascending – Vaughan Williams



About the composer



Vaughan Williams was a British composer who was born in 1872 in Gloucestershire. He began playing the organ and piano at a very young age and knew he wanted to be a composer. He had written his first piece by the age of 5. He then gave up piano and learned to play violin instead. He has been described as the most important English composer of his generation!

Prior learning

Learning songs, chants and rhymes, exploring instruments in EYFS.

Exploring and improvising rhythms in KS1.

Exposure to other pieces of classical music.

Interesting ideas:

The Lark Ascending was inspired by a poem of the same name written by George Meredith, which tells the tale of a skylark singing an impossibly beautiful, almost heavenly, song.

Vaughan Williams was working on *The Lark Ascending* in 1914, just as World War I broke out.

Useful links:

Follow this link to listen to listen to *The Lark Ascending*:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-vaughan-williams-lark-ascending/znwdbdm>