

LESSON 2, ACT 2: BIG LOVE

Key stage 2 National Curriculum Objectives featured:

Pupils will

- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music.

Act 2 features the famous balcony scene when Romeo and Juliet admit their love for each other. Many composers have written music to portray this moment but the best love theme comes from within Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture which tells the whole story of the play in around 20 minutes!

During Tchaikovsky's piece we hear the love theme three times, describing the following –

- Romeo's love at first sight moment
- Romeo and Juliet's balcony scene
- Juliet waking to find that Romeo has died

For this task you will need art materials. Ask your children to fold one piece of paper (A4 or A3) into three columns and place it landscape on their desks table (longest side bottom and top) like this:

1	2	3

1. Listen to the first version of Tchaikovsky's love theme. It appears here, 8'30 – 9'10:

[Tchaikovsky Love Theme 1](#)

As you listen ask your children to draw lovesick Romeo in their first column. They might like to draw hearts around him or Juliet in the distance, but warn them not to go too much over the top, the love theme is going to get a lot bigger soon!

2. Listen to the second version of the love theme. This describes Romeo and Juliet on the balcony confessing their love to one another. Here is it at 9'35 – 12'00:

[Tchaikovsky Love Theme 2](#)

The task is to draw the two of them together in column 2, surrounded by hearts and symbols of their love.

3. Finally, listen the third version of the theme. This one is extremely passionate and describes Juliet waking to find Romeo dead beside her. It occurs at 15'30 and runs on, getting bigger and bigger until 17'30 (although you could listen onwards to the end, the theme appears briefly and very sadly once more - perhaps this is the lovers reunited in death...)

Tchaikovsky Love Theme 3

Can your children draw this tragic moment in column 3? Towards the end of this extract, you can hear the argument and fighting of the families, perhaps your children could add this onto their artwork too

4. When this is achieved have a discussion about the resulting artwork and maybe listen to the whole piece allowing the children to finish off their pictures however they like – for example they could add on other story elements inspired by the music or get the paints out and make them really colourful.
5. Finally, at this point you will have heard the famous love theme many times. Can you create lyrics to fit and sing it loud and proud?