

Musician of the Month

November 2021



Camille Saint-Saëns

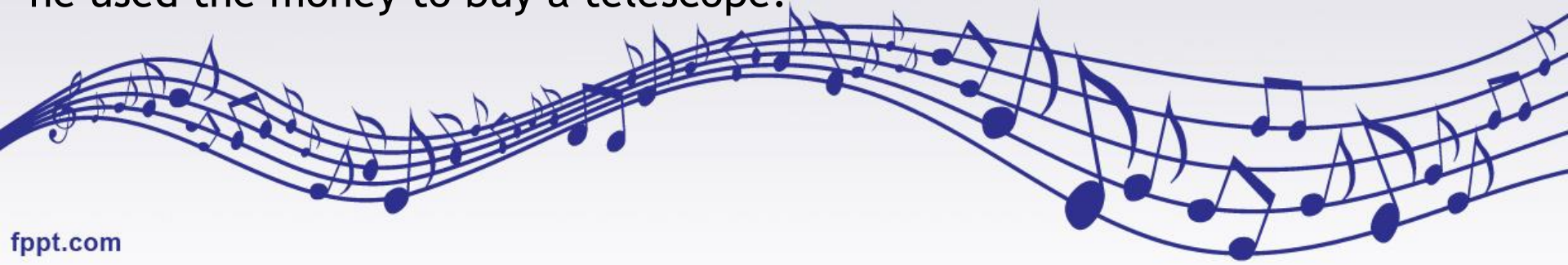


Saint-Saëns

Camille Saint-Saens was born in Paris on 9 October 1835.

He was one of the greatest composers of his day. He composed lots of music of different kinds.

Three months after Saint-Saens was born his father died. Saint-Saens was often ill with tuberculosis when he was very small and this carried on throughout his life. He was brought up by his mother and his aunt. This illness didn't hold Saint-Saens back. At the age of two his aunt taught him the piano. When he was ten he played piano concertos by Beethoven and Mozart at a public concert, playing everything from memory. He was very good at school and was interested in lots of subjects including science and philosophy. In 1858 he published some duets for harmonium and piano and he used the money to buy a telescope.



Danse Macabre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xm2nKAXeLzQ>

Listen to this first without the video playing - what do you think you can hear?

This piece of music really tells a story! The title means “Dance of Death” and it is the right time of year to listen to a piece of music like this..

Once you have drawn/written/discussed your ideas watch the video and see what Saint-Saens imagined as he composed this piece!



The Carnival of the Animals

Over the next few weeks we will listen to some different pieces from “The Carnival of the Animals” - a piece of chamber music composed to make you think about a host of different animals.

As you listen think carefully about:

- the beat (is it fast or slow?) How does this mean the animal will move?
- The tone (are the notes high or low?) What does this tell you about the size of the animal?
- The instruments you can hear (can you name them?) Do they give you any clues to which animal it is?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1nVDoCnsNk>

Listen to this first without the video playing - what do you think you can hear?

How fast is this piece of music? Which animals move like this? Does it sound heavy or light? Which animals might this represent?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFJf3rHd69c>

Listen to this first without the video playing - what do you think you can hear?

How fast is this piece of music? Which animals move like this? Can you recognise any of the instruments? Which animals might be like the wind section of the orchestra?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TskIG9lFvY>

Listen to this first without the video playing - what do you think you can hear?

How fast is this piece of music? Which animals move like this? Can you recognise any of the instruments? Which animals might this be trying to replicate?

