



BBC TEN PIECES

Copland

Rodeo - Hoedown

Primary classroom lesson plan

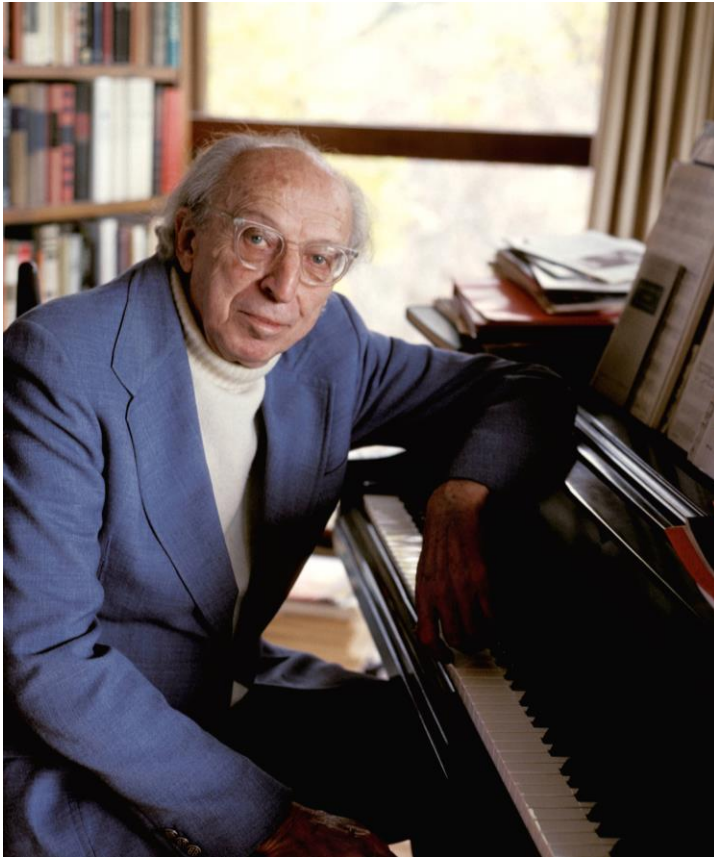
Written by
Rachel Leach



Glossary of music terms

| Term | Definition |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Call and response | a musical conversation. An idea is heard and then repeated by a different section of the orchestra or at a different volume |
| Melody | another word for 'tune'. A linear line of notes, like a musical sentence |
| Ostinato | a repeating (often rhythmic) pattern |
| Pitched percussion | percussion instruments that can play different pitches (notes) – xylophones, glockenspiels, chime bars etc. |
| Unpitched percussion | percussion instruments that make sounds that don't have a specific pitch (or 'note') – drums, shakers, woodblocks, tambourine etc. |
| Syncopation | The 'weaker' or less obvious notes are emphasised. The result is unexpected, often 'jazzy' rhythms |

Background – the composer



Aaron COPLAND (1900 - 1990)

- American composer
- Famous for writing music that 'sounds like America'
- This piece is all about cowboys and cowgirls partying

Background – the music



Rodeo – Hoedown

- Written in 1942
- ‘Rodeo’ is a ballet featuring a story about a cowgirl trying to fit in amongst the men
- ‘Hoedown’ is the most famous section of music from the ballet and features American folk tunes
- A hoedown is traditionally a dance in 2 time and often played by fiddle (violin)

Get to know Copland's Rodeo – Hoedown



Copy and paste the link below into google and watch the presentation.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/17785e2a-48b0-4d5a-986d-00a093597a61>

What did you think?



Did you like the film?

What was your favourite part?

Would you like to go to a cowboy/ cowgirl party?

Dance the Hoedown

Listen to the opening 20 seconds of Hoedown - click.



What do you think is happening at:

- 0-5 seconds - Swirling music
- 5-15 seconds - Spiky rhythms
- 15-20 seconds – Swirling music

The Hoedown was often a competitive dance. Cowboys would show off their skills by challenging rivals to copy their moves. What actions could you do to the music at these points?



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Listen to the section from 0'40 – 1'40 – click above

The music here divides into 8 beats. While listening to the music try counting to 8 out loud over the top

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8, 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Can you come up with a short dance to fit 8 beats?



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Listening to the piece

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/xHY4YjcsgN1Tp31Zdc6Ws1/rodeo-hoe-down-by-aaron-copland>

What instruments can you see?

Can you name them?

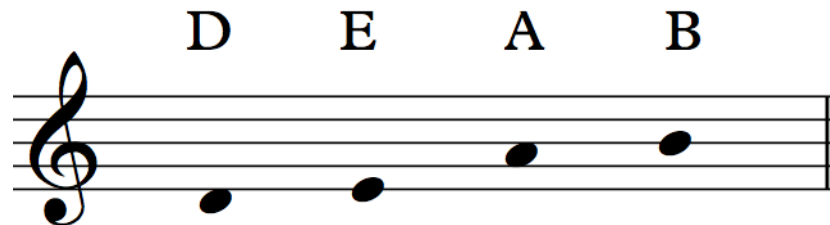
Can you draw them?

How would you describe this music?

Do you like it? Remember to give reasons for your opinion.

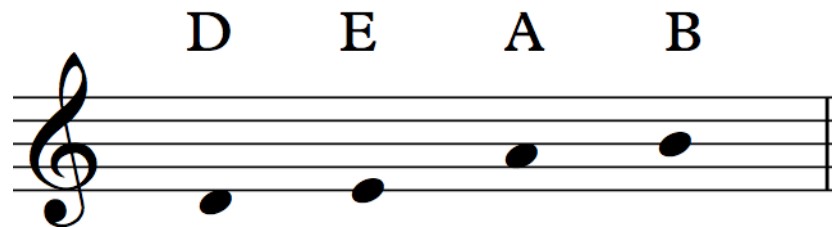
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Aaron Copland only used a handful of notes in his tunes - that's one of the reasons his music is so effective.



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If you have an instrument at home can you create a piece of music using just:



Record your piece and share it on google classroom.

Repeating Patterns - The technical term for a repeating rhythmic pattern is an **ostinato**

Say and repeat this rhythm:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

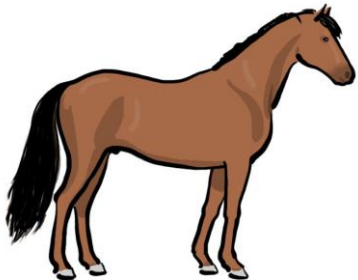
Ri - ding on my horse

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Use any resources that you have at home to try playing the ostinato below. You can use boxes, saucepans, your hands etc Play it over and over again, remember to keep in time.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Ri - ding on my horse

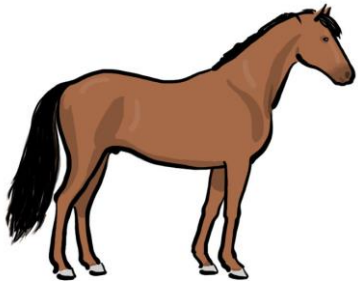


Play confidently

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Can you compose your own Rodeo piece of music?

What ostinato patterns could you use?





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Taking it further – cross-curricular activities that you could share on google classroom

DANCE: Choreograph a dance to fit with the whole piece.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/xHY4YjcsgN1Tp31Zdc6Ws1/rodeo-hoe-down-by-aaron-copland>

LITERACY: Create stories about cowboys and cowgirls. The story behind Rodeo features a girl disguising herself as a cowboy – can you re-tell this story?

ART: Design costumes and stage set for a production of the ballet

HISTORY: Several of Copland's other pieces feature stories from early America. Listen to these pieces (Billy the Kid, Appalachian Spring) and research the true stories behind them