

## Chapter 1

### Programme Music

What is the concept of programme music?

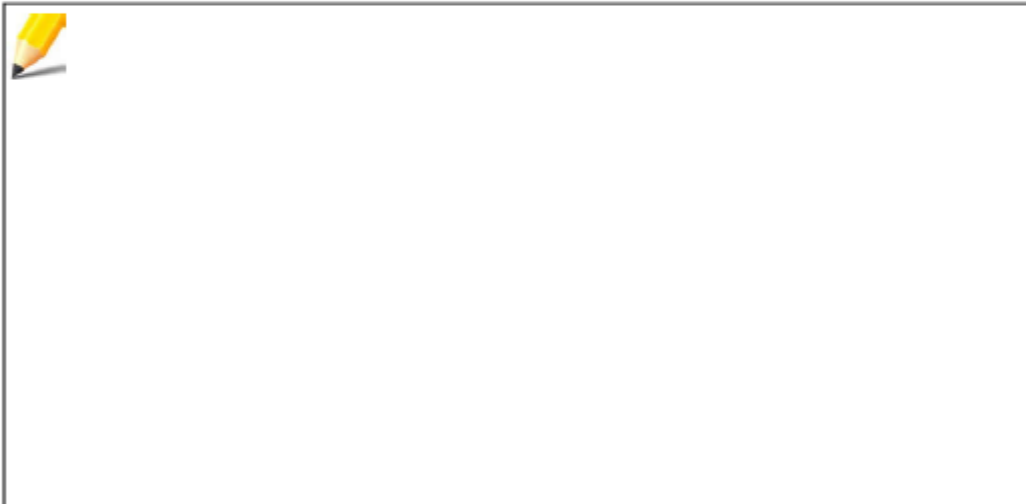
According to Grove Music Dictionary defines as “Music of a narrative or descriptive kind”

As an example that illustrates programme music, lets listen and appreciate “**The 1812 Overture**” This overture was written by Tchaikovsky to celebrate Russias’s victory over Napoleon’s Army in 1812.

- The overture begins with the Russian hymn “O Lord, Save Thy People”. Viola and Cello section begins and with the other instruments entering gradually illustrating the peaceful element of life in Russia at that time.
- The change of mood introduced by the woodwinds at this stage conveys a disturbing feeling as an indication of trouble approaching Russia.
- Next the enemy’s approach is announced by the snare drums with the theme
- As the war develops the power of the French Army’s attack is underlined by the opening theme of their National Anthem *La Marseillaise* supported by tensed ostinato by the strings.
- This is followed by a Russian folk dance theme that symbolizes the growing Russian National unity.
- The final stages of the battle is represented with an explosive climax using brass, percussion and real cannon with a quotation from the Russian National Anthem, *God Save the Tsar!* commemorating the Russian victory.

#### Activity 1

- Write the musical devices used by Tchaikovsky to express his composition.






Lets listen to “The Carnival of the Animals” by Saint -Saens

This was a a humorous music suite for two pianos with a string section, flute, clarinet and percussion instruments. A work in fourteen movements, each representing a different animal from lion to tortoises to fossils!

### Activity 2

 Write brief comments of the following movements	
Movement	Musical devices used to depict the main characteristics / sound / behaviour of the animal
No. 1 Lion	
No. 2 Hens & Rooster	
No. 5 Elephant	
No. 13 Swan	



### Activity 3

1. Use any available instruments to depict the sounds of the birds, thunderstorm or the ocean
2. Create a simple story using only sound (for 5 minutes)



Write about the things you feel and learn after expressing your story and listening to classmates stories.

## VIDEO LINKS FOR PROGRAMME MUSIC

About programme music - <https://youtu.be/fFsLKj3w0sg>

The Carnival of the Animals - <https://youtu.be/k2RPKMJmSp0>

Tchaikovsky - 1812 Overture - <https://youtu.be/tETyOkFdv0U>