

Theatre

Music and the theatre are good friends.
Musicals and operas are both performed
in a theatre – and they're *full* of music.
Even ordinary plays often have music.

But today we have DVDs and cinema –
so why do we want the theatre?

Because the theatre is *real*...

...and anything could happen!

An actor could even forget
what to say, or trip over. But if this
happens, the show must keep going!

Musicals and operas are
both like plays but with
music instead of speech.

The Music...

Peer Gynt is a play. When it was written 150 years ago,
a man called Grieg composed music to go with it.
These days, the music is more famous than the play!

At one point in the play, *Peer Gynt* sneaks
into the castle of the Mountain King.

But the King's trolls spot him!

The trolls and the King chase *Peer Gynt*...
...and *finally*, he manages to escape.

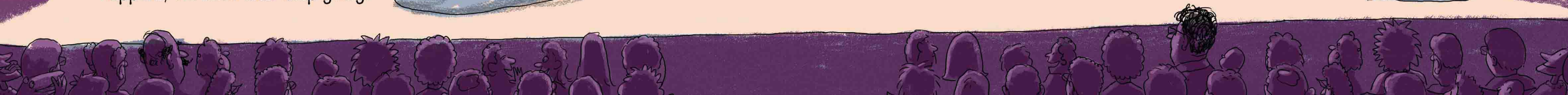
PLAY THE MUSIC

Play TRACK 5

Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 ('In the Hall
of the Mountain King') by Grieg

LISTEN FOR...

- *Peer Gynt's* quiet footsteps at the
beginning as he enters the castle
- The music getting faster...



George Frideric Handel

(born in 1685 • died in 1759)

Do you think a year is a long time?
What about two years?
What about **300** years?

The composer called Handel lived so long ago that he wore a wig and nobody laughed at him. 300 years ago, it was normal for a man to wear a wig.



This Handel has nothing to do with a door handle. His name is a German name: he was a German composer who moved to England.



The Music...

In 1749 the King of England, George II, asked Mr Handel for some music to be played at his big fireworks display.

So Handel, wearing his wig, wrote *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. It was grand music for a grand occasion.

Thousands of people came to Green Park, London to watch. The fireworks sizzled and popped while 100 musicians played Handel's music.

The music was so brilliant, people thought it was better than the fireworks!

What do *you* think?

1749
KING

Dear Mr. Handel
I'm having a party with lots of fireworks and wondered if you could come along and give us some music?

Best wishes
George II (King)



Play **TRACK 6**

Music for the Royal Fireworks
(*'La Réjouissance'*)
by Handel

LISTEN FOR...

The bright and energetic tune, played by trumpets

The fireworks are good but the music is brilliant!

We agree.

