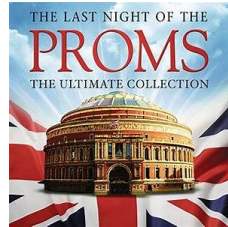


The Proms Music Project
Summer-2 2020



Garden Suburb 'Last Night of the Proms' Project



Summer 2 - Week 1

Warm up

Our music lessons for this half term are going to be linked to 'The Last Night of the Proms'. The Proms are an annual 8-week season of daily concerts held at [The Royal Albert Hall](#) in London which finish with a huge celebration of British Classical music played with an accompaniment of fireworks, light shows and canons as well as a lot of patriotic singing and flag waving from the audience!

[Watch this video](#) for an overview of the BBC Proms
[Click here for Miss B's intro to The Proms](#)

Mild Activity

How many different instruments did you spot? Can you name them?
Were there any instruments that you couldn't name? If so, can you make up a name for it that you think describes it?
Were there any you didn't expect to see?
What different styles of music did you hear?
What did you like the most? Is there anything you didn't like?
Do you think you'd like to go to a Prom? Why?

Spicy Activity

(see sheet attached and/or watch video above)

In your home learning books, create a quiz of at least 5 questions (and answers) about The Proms. (If you can get a parent to email them to me, I can include them in an end of term quiz!)

Hot Activity

(see sheet attached and/or watch video above)

In your home learning books, create a fact-file about the The Proms
What are The Proms? Who created them? When? Why? Where? etc...

The Proms Music Project Summer-2 2020

Introduction to The Proms?

A Prom (short for promenade concert) is an informal and inexpensive concert where traditionally the audience (Prommers) would stroll around gardens whilst an orchestra played to entertain them.

The Prom seasons were set up in 1895 by British musician, composer and conductor, Sir Henry Wood with the organisational and financial support of Robert Newman who wanted to offer the best quality classical music to the widest audience possible. This ethos remains the central ambition to the BBC Proms today.

The Proms season starts in July and normally runs until the 2nd Saturday in September where the whole event is brought to a close with an enormous concert inside The Royal Albert Hall at the same time as an outdoor concert in Hyde Park. The Last Night is famous for always featuring some really amazing and rousing British music for the audiences to sing along to and wave Union Jack flags usually with fireworks, light shows and canons accompanying the orchestra. It's a very exciting and joyous occasion.

The first proms concert took place on 10th August 1895. Tickets cost just one shilling (5p) and eating, drinking, smoking as well as wandering around during the performances were all encouraged to help create an informal atmosphere that would engage and entice audiences from all walks of life.

After the first few years some traditions were established; Monday night was Wagner (A German composer) night and Fridays were dedicated to the music of Beethoven. But The Proms was also an opportunity for new composers and performers to get recognised and introduced to the world. Since the 1960s music from a wide variety of genres (a style or category of music) has also been performed including music from many non-western cultures including India, Thailand, Indonesia and Japan, music for percussion ensembles, jazz, gospel, electro-acoustic music and concerts created especially for children.

The 100th Prom took place in 1994 and now includes over 70 main concerts every year featuring musicians and composers from around the world whilst still showcasing the talents of our own incredible homegrown British music scene.

The BBC took over the running of The Proms in 1927 and when the BBC Symphony Orchestra was born in 1930, it became the main orchestra for the concerts. All concerts are broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and an increasing number are also shown on the television channel, BBC Four.

The tradition of 'Promming' (this now refers to the use of the standing areas inside the hall, such as the main arena and the gallery) remains an important feature of the festival with more than 1000 tickets available every night in either the main arena or up high in the hall's gallery - these tickets remain the cheapest in the festival at £6 each for every performance.

The Proms Music Project Summer-2 2020

The Last Night of The Proms is different to the rest of the season and is arguably the most famous evening in the classical music calendar. Normally, the Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra leads this concert, but guest conductors have directed the Last Night on several occasions. Australian conductor Charles Mackerras was the first non-British-born conductor to lead it in 1980, Leonard Slatkin was the first American conductor in 2001, Czech conductor Jifi Belohlavek was the first non-native English speaker in 2007 and American conductor Marin Alsop was the Last Night's first ever female conductor in 2013.

The Last Night is traditionally made up of the lighter/more accessible classical music repertoire and is broadcast in many countries around the world. It is the least formal evening of the season and many audience members dress up in fancy dress - usually sporting the Union Jack or other patriotic symbols. Union flags are waved by the Prommers, especially during "Rule, Britannia!" and everyone is encouraged to sing along with the orchestra.