



Hbk: 978-1-8381381-3-4 Pbk: 978-1-8381381-4-1

## CREATE A PIECE OF MUSIC

### Lead-in activity

Enjoy reading *The Most Important Animal of All* and identify all the animals within the book. Discuss the known noises that the animals make (sharks and krill cannot produce sounds) and listen to clips available online. After listening to each clip, talk about the pitch (high/low), dynamics (loud/quiet) and tempo (fast/slow) of each noise.



### Main activity

Listen to samples of classical music inspired by animals. Examples include:

- Camille Saint-Saëns – The Carnival of the Animals
- Ottorino Respighi – The Birds
- George Crumb – Vox Balaenae (Voice of the Whale)
- Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov – Flight of the Bumblebee

Provide a variety of tuned and untuned instruments. Children work in small groups to experiment, create and combine sounds to represent a chosen animal or collection of animals. Provide time for each group to perform their musical creations and give and receive feedback.



### Extension activity

Link this activity to exploring a wider variety of sounds by creating homemade instruments. These could include straw pan flutes, tin can drums, water-filled glass containers, elastic band guitars, rice filled shakers. Discuss the pitch of the sounds created with the homemade instruments and which animals they best represent.



### English National Curriculum links::

- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it