

Listening to a Fanfare

© 2000, L. Shannon www.MusicatSchool.co.uk

Leoš Janáček 1854 - 1928

A Czechoslovakian composer

Janáček was brought up in a musical family and learned the organ from an early age. He became a choirmaster at the cathedral of Olomouk and later, conductor of the Brno Orchestra. His musical development was very slow, and he did not do his best work until he was over forty. In the last twelve years of his life he composed his finest operas and orchestral works.

Janáček wrote melodies that sounded like the folk tunes of his country. He also used folk dance rhythms in his music.

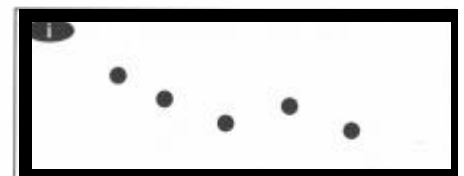


Sinfonietta

This piece began because Janáček was asked to write some fanfares for brass instruments to be played at a gymnastic display. This gave him the idea for the first movement and this led to the whole Sinfonietta.

Listen to the opening of the first movement and answer the following questions.

- 1** The graphic scores show the shape of the music of the three melodies, each of which occurs several times. Write down the order in which you hear each one.



- 2** Listen out for the following elements and discuss:

Timbre What does the music sound like?
Texture (Is the music thick or thin?)
Dynamics (Is the music loud or quiet?)

