

SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)

- ♣ French composer born in Paris
- ♣ Played piano and organ and at the age of 10 gave his first performance.
- ♣ During last part of his life he travelled to North Africa and America.
- ♣ One of his most famous works is *Danse Macabre*

Danse Macabre



This is the dance of death. Dead people rise from their graves and tempt the living to join them in a dance that brought them finally to death. Danse Macabre is the earliest known Dance of Death

The music is for violin and orchestra and is based on a poem by Henri Cazalis. The poem described the gruesome happenings in a churchyard on Halloween. As the clock strikes midnight, the cloaked figure of Death appears and calls on the skeletons from their graves to dance to the tunes he plays on his violin. The clattering of the skeletons' bones is shown by the sounds from the xylophone. Eventually, as the cock-crow (solo oboe) heralds the first light of dawn, the skeletons vanish back into their graves; then death, too, disappears.