

Welcome back to **Home Made Music**: the online music making sessions you can share at home with your children during and after lockdown. This is the last one in the current series.

You can revisit them whenever you want. They will all be available online.

These sessions embrace free music, found sounds and music making for non-musicians and musicians. So, don't worry about how much or how little experience you've had with music making. There are no mistakes, just a whole world of sound to explore and today...

It's Story Time!

Oxford
Contemporary
Music



HOME MADE MUSIC #4

Musical Storytelling

PREPARATION:

Collect lots of sound making devices. Maybe kitchen implements, maybe any percussion or other instruments you have around at home.

Have a picture book story to hand which introduces a sequence of different characters, page by page, like **Handa's Surprise** or **Mr Gumpy's Outing**.

OK now let's get into the **Story Zone**. We are going to try creating a soundscape first.

Let's call this one...

“DOWN ON THE FARM”

Get everyone to talk about farmyard sounds. Not just the animals (sheep, chickens, cows, humans etc) but also mechanical noises (tractor, clanking milk churns, silage etc.), weather noises, bird song, church bells. Ask each person to choose a sound and then add their sound to the soundscape using their voice and repeating it from time to time, so that a sonic picture of a farmyard is created and sustained by the group.

After a while maybe they can add another sound so that they are making two different sounds on repeat.

How often can you repeat your sound before it dominates too much?

How fast/slow can the whole group make their repetitive sounds before it stops sounding like a farmyard?

Now try the soundscape again but ask everyone to choose a sound making device/instrument to play and replace the vocal sounds they have been making with instrumental sounds. Great if still sound like chickens, or tractors or church bells etc

If it's all going well people can bring back their vocal sounds into the soundscape too.

MUSICAL STOYTELLING:

Sound-tracking and underscoring A Story

Now have a look at the book you've chosen. I'm choosing **Handa's Surprise** by Eileen Browne. Explain that you're all going to do a musical version of this story together, and then read the story. Either read it to the group or, if you're all readers, let everyone take turns at reading a page. Make sure that everyone can see the pictures

Now let's fit some sounds and music into the story.

At the start Handa puts seven delicious fruits in a basket to take to her friend, Ayeko. Try different sounds for the different fruits, with each person making a sound for one or two of the fruits. Handa is going for a long walk, right up until the end of the story, so maybe everybody could be part of a little Handa walking soundscape. Practice the walking soundscape.

As Handa walks, carrying the basket on her head, various creatures come one at a time to steal her fruits: monkey, ostrich, zebra, elephant, giraffe, antelope, and parrot. Decide who is going to make the sounds/music of each animal and listen to them play that sound /music. Probably people will need to make the music for two different animals. And then there is the goat as well, who charges the tangerine tree so the fruits cascade down into Handa's basket. Go round the group making sure everyone can remember the sounds each of them make for their animals. Then try putting it all together, so that the animal sounds/music are played by individuals over the soundscape that everyone else is playing.

You'll all need to make the sounds for the tangerine cascade, and maybe everyone sings a song together, when Handa reaches her friend Ayeko's village. Just sing their names: "Handa!" ... "Ayeko!"and maybe add in your names too!

Maybe this session ends with you reading the whole story and showing the pictures while everyone plays along. Maybe you will want to save the complete version for another day.

VARIATIONS:

Stories: Here is a list of picture books that will work well for other musical story sessions, but you probably know others, so try those as well.

Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne (Walker Books)

Baby Goes To Market by Atinuke, (Walker Books)

Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins (Penguin Books)

Mr Gumpy's Outing by John Burningham (Macmillan)

Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen (Walker Books)

The Enormous Crocodile by Roald Dahl (Jonathan Cape)

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson (Macmillan)

My Young Adventures: Meet Mya & Family by Jeannelle Brew (Bryan House Pub.)

Hic! by Sue Eves (Bodley Head)

Soundscapes: Try creating soundscapes for other locations e.g. Supermarket, Seaside, Airport, Station, Zoo, forest etc.

So that's **Home Made Music #4** and the end of our first series. Thanks for joining in.

We would love to hear from you: Let us know what you think about the sessions. Maybe you have some funny stories about how they have been going or got some great ideas or ways of developing the music. Why not tweet us a video or audio recording of some of your Home Made Music!!

Email us at info@ocmevents.org with the subject heading **Home Made Music** or tweet us **@OCMEVENTS #OCMHomeMadeMusic**
