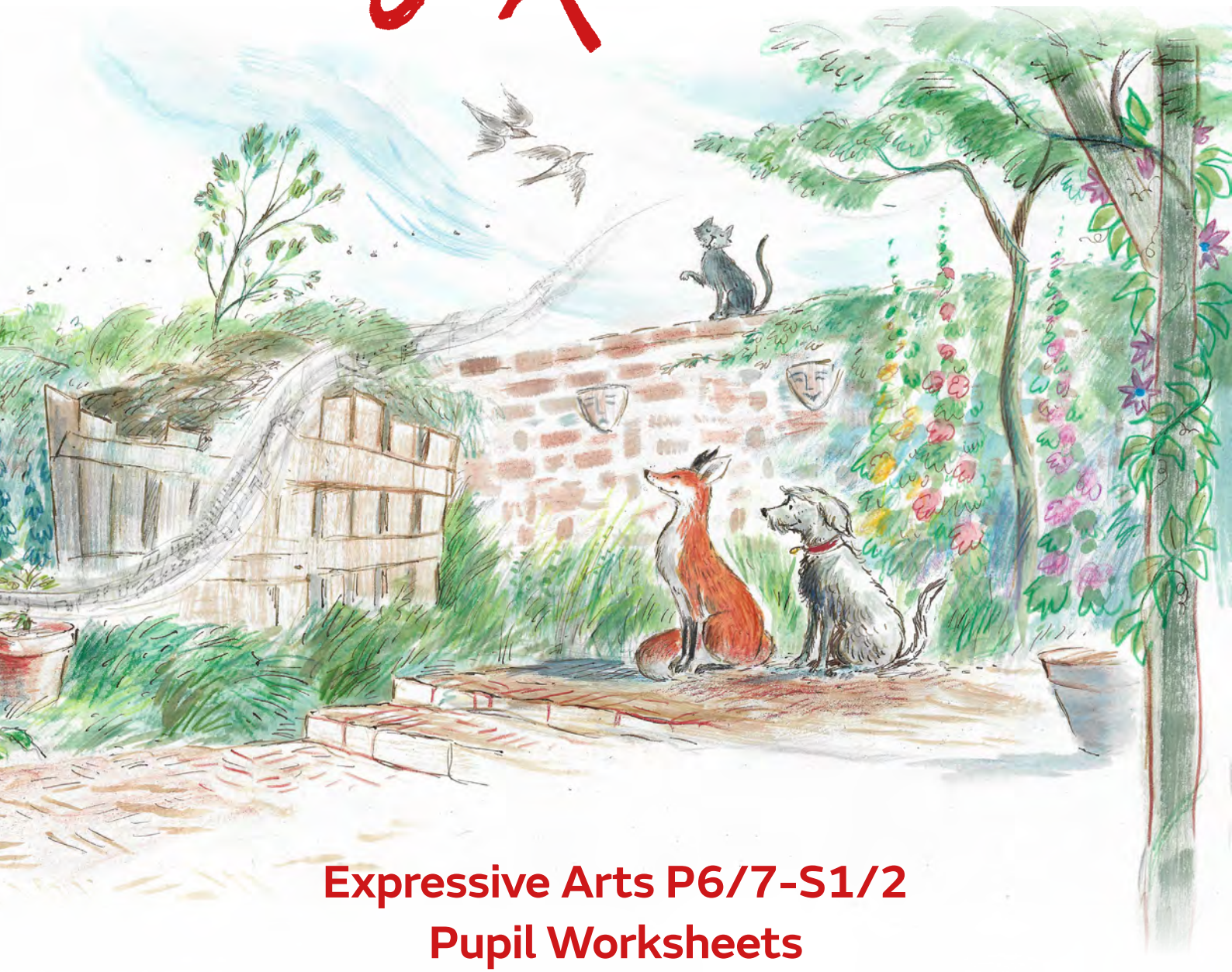
RSNO
SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Gaspard's foxtrot



Expressive Arts P6/7-S1/2
Pupil Worksheets

Instruments of the Orchestra

An Orchestra is a large group of musicians who play instruments together. The instruments are split into four families: Strings, Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion. The RSNO are based in Glasgow and there are over 80 members. They play a range of music written by composers from all around the world.



Woodwind

Instruments from the Woodwind family all use breath (wind) to make a sound. Traditionally some of these instruments were completely made of wood, and today some still use a tiny piece of wood called a reed to make their sound.

Woodwind instruments from highest to lowest are piccolo, flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon.



In Gaspard's Foxtrot, the bassoon is used for the character of Gaspard.



Watch Meet the Musician: Clip 1 and see if you can fill in the following info about the bassoon as you listen.

What does Dave most like about playing the bassoon? _____

_____

Why does Dave think nerves are important in a performance? _____

_____

What kinds of emotions can you show through playing an instrument? _____

_____



Strings

String instruments use their strings to make a sound. Sometimes they are played by bowing the strings, sometimes they are plucked.

Bowing the strings is called ARCO.
Your teacher will play you an example.



Plucking the strings is called PIZZICATO.
Your teacher will play you an example.



String instruments from highest to lowest are violin, viola, cello, and double bass.



violin viola cello double bass

Additionally, the harp is a member of the String family even though it looks very different from the rest! In Gaspard's Foxtrot, the harp is used to depict the character of Honey.





Watch Meet the Musician: Clip 2 and see if you can fill in the following info about the harp as you listen.

What is Pippa's favourite thing about playing the harp? _____

_____

Name three ways in which the harp can play in the orchestra. _____

_____

How many pedals does the harp have? _____

The special effect Pippa is talking about is called GLISSANDO and means sliding up and down notes.



Percussion

Percussion instruments are hit, shaken, or scraped to make a sound. They can be split into two groups: instruments which can play a melody like a xylophone; and instruments which can only play a rhythm like a triangle.

Some percussion instruments you hit are snare drum, cymbals, and timpani.



snare drum



cymbals

timpani



Some percussion instruments you shake are tambourine and maracas.



tambourine



maracas

Some percussion instruments you scrape are guiro and sand blocks.

guiro





sand blocks

In Gaspard's Foxtrot, the timpani is used to anchor the mood and colour the emotion of what's going on in the story.



Watch Meet the Musician: Clip 3 and see if you can fill in the following info about the timpani as you listen.

What is Paul's favourite thing about playing timpani? _____

_____

What does Paul like about playing with an orchestra? _____

_____

What is the timpanist's role in the orchestra? _____



Brass

The instruments in the Brass family are primarily made of brass. They make their sound through the buzzing of your lips through a mouthpiece.

Brass instruments from highest to lowest are trumpet, French horn, trombone, and tuba.



In Gaspard's Foxtrot, the trombone is used for the character of Finty the dog.





Watch the short video clip of the trombone playing Finty's music and see if you can fill in the following info about the trombone as you listen.

Do you think the trombone is a high or a low instrument? _____

What do you think Finty the dog is like from listening to the music the trombone plays?

_____

The trombone is playing some sliding notes here... Do you remember the name for sliding up and down in music?

_____

Now we are going to play Instrument Bingo!

Pick 4 of the following words and write them in the spaces provided.

Gaspard (bassoon)
Honey (harp)
Finty (trombone)
Peter (clarinet)
Timpani
Glissando
Pizzicato
Arco

Your teacher will now play some excerpts and you can tick them off if you hear any of the ones you've picked. Once you have heard all four, shout bingo!



P6/P7 **Scavenger Hunt**

Gaspard's Foxtrot Scavenger Hunt

Listen to the music and tick off when you find something. Write in the spaces the name/description of what you've seen.

Here's what I will find:

Three things that are **shiny**

☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____

Something beginning with the letter **B** ☐ _____

Something beginning with the letter **F** ☐ _____

Something beginning with the letter **C** ☐ _____

Music that **sounds like**

☐ **Worms** ☐ **Birds** ☐ **Bees** ☐ **Fox** ☐ **Dog** ☐ **Cat**

Something **loud** ☐ _____

Something **quiet** ☐ _____

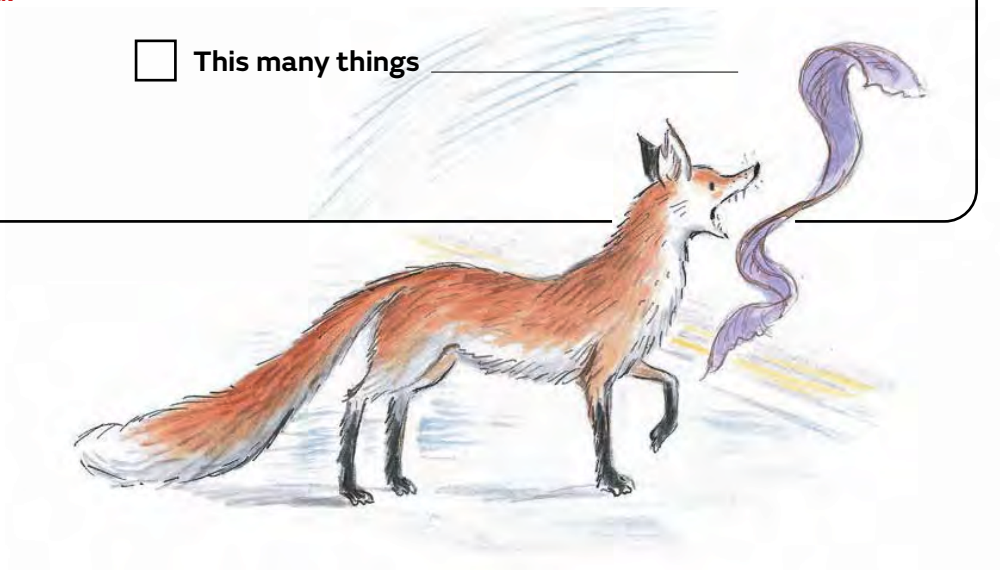
A **small** instrument ☐ _____

A **big** instrument ☐ _____

My **favourite** instrument ☐ _____

Looks like I found:

☐ **Everything** ☐ **This many things** _____



S1/2 **Scavenger Hunt**

Gaspard's Foxtrot Scavenger Hunt

Listen to the music and tick off when you find something. Write in the spaces the name/description of what you've seen.

Here's what I will find:

A **string** instrument ☐ _____

A **woodwind** instrument ☐ _____

A **brass** instrument ☐ _____

A **percussion** instrument ☐ _____

An instrument beginning with the letter **C** ☐ _____

An instrument beginning with the letter **H** ☐ _____

An instrument beginning with the letter **V** ☐ _____

Playing techniques: **Glissando** ☐ **Pizzicato** ☐ **Arco** ☐

The instrument playing: **Gaspard** ☐ _____ **Honey** ☐ _____

Something **loud** ☐ _____

Something **quiet** ☐ _____

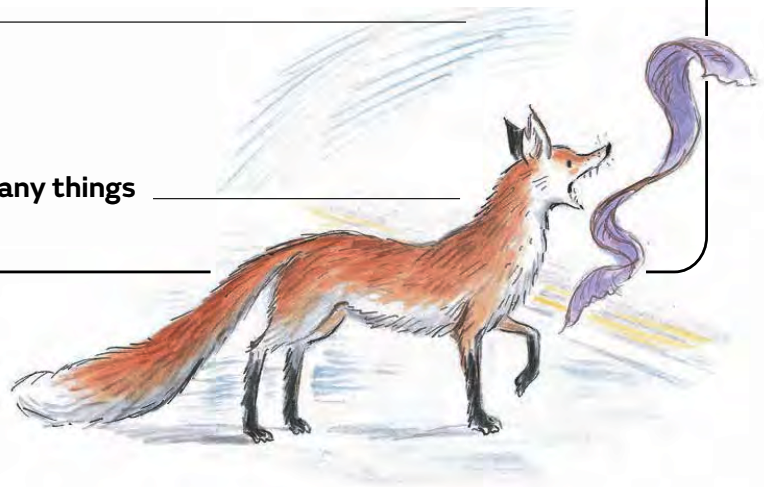
A **small** instrument ☐ _____

A **big** instrument ☐ _____

My **favourite** instrument ☐ _____

Looks like I found:

☐ **Everything** ☐ **This many things** _____



P6/P7 **Listening Activity**



Gaspard's Foxtrot Listening Log

Rhythm:

- ☐ Fast
- ☐ Slow
- ☐ Getting faster
- ☐ Getting slower

Pitch:

- ☐ High
- ☐ Low
- ☐ Getting higher
- ☐ Getting lower

Dynamics:

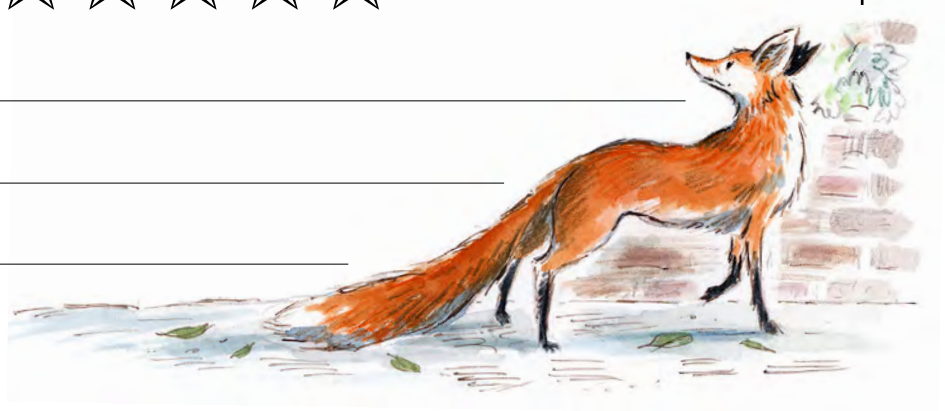
- ☐ Loud
- ☐ Quiet
- ☐ Getting louder
- ☐ Getting quieter

Timbre (instruments):

As a group: How successful do you think the composer was at creating music to sound like this part of the story?

☆☆☆☆☆

Why? _____



S1/S2 **Listening Activity**



Gaspard's Foxtrot Listening Log

Rhythm/Tempo:

- ☐ Allegro
- ☐ Adagio
- ☐ Getting faster
- ☐ Getting slower

Any rhythmic feature: _____

_____

_____

Pitch:

- ☐ High
- ☐ Low
- ☐ Getting higher
- ☐ Getting lower

_____

_____

_____

Dynamics:

- ☐ Forte
- ☐ Piano
- ☐ Crescendo
- ☐ Diminuendo

_____

_____

_____

Timbre (instruments):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

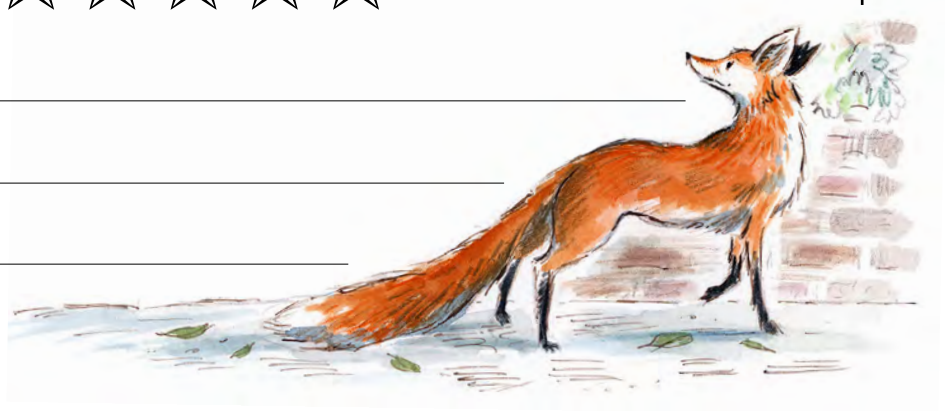
As a group: How successful do you think the composer was at creating music to sound like this part of the story?

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Why? _____

_____

_____



Instruments



Bassoon

Instruments



Harp

Instruments



Trombone

Instruments



Clarinet

Instruments



Timpani

Playing techniques



Pizzicato
(plucked)

Playing techniques



Arco
(bowed)

Playing techniques



Glissando
(sliding)

Tempo



Allegro

Tempo



Adagio

Tempo



Getting faster

Tempo



Getting slower

Dynamics



Forte

Dynamics



Piano

Dynamics



Crescendo

Dynamics



Diminuendo

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RSNO SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

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