

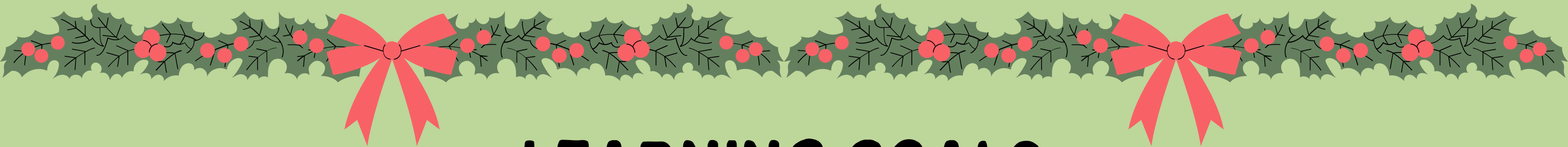


# UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF THE NUTCRACKER

Discover Classroom Resources  
Available on Musicplay Online  
by Stacy Werner

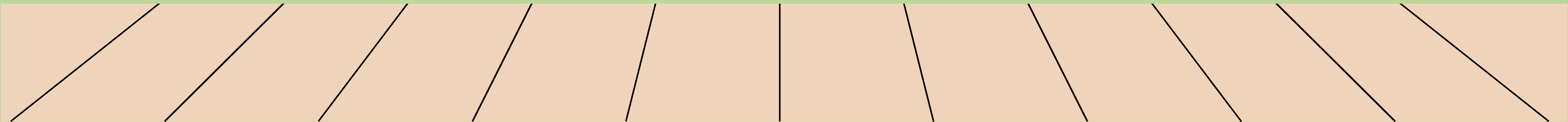


THEMES & VARIATIONS  
**MUSICPLAY**  
ONLINE



# LEARNING GOALS

- Identify and access Nutcracker resources available on Musicplay Online.
- Demonstrate movement routines and instrumental play-alongs using selections from The Nutcracker.
- Relate musical concepts to specific songs from The Nutcracker to enhance understanding.

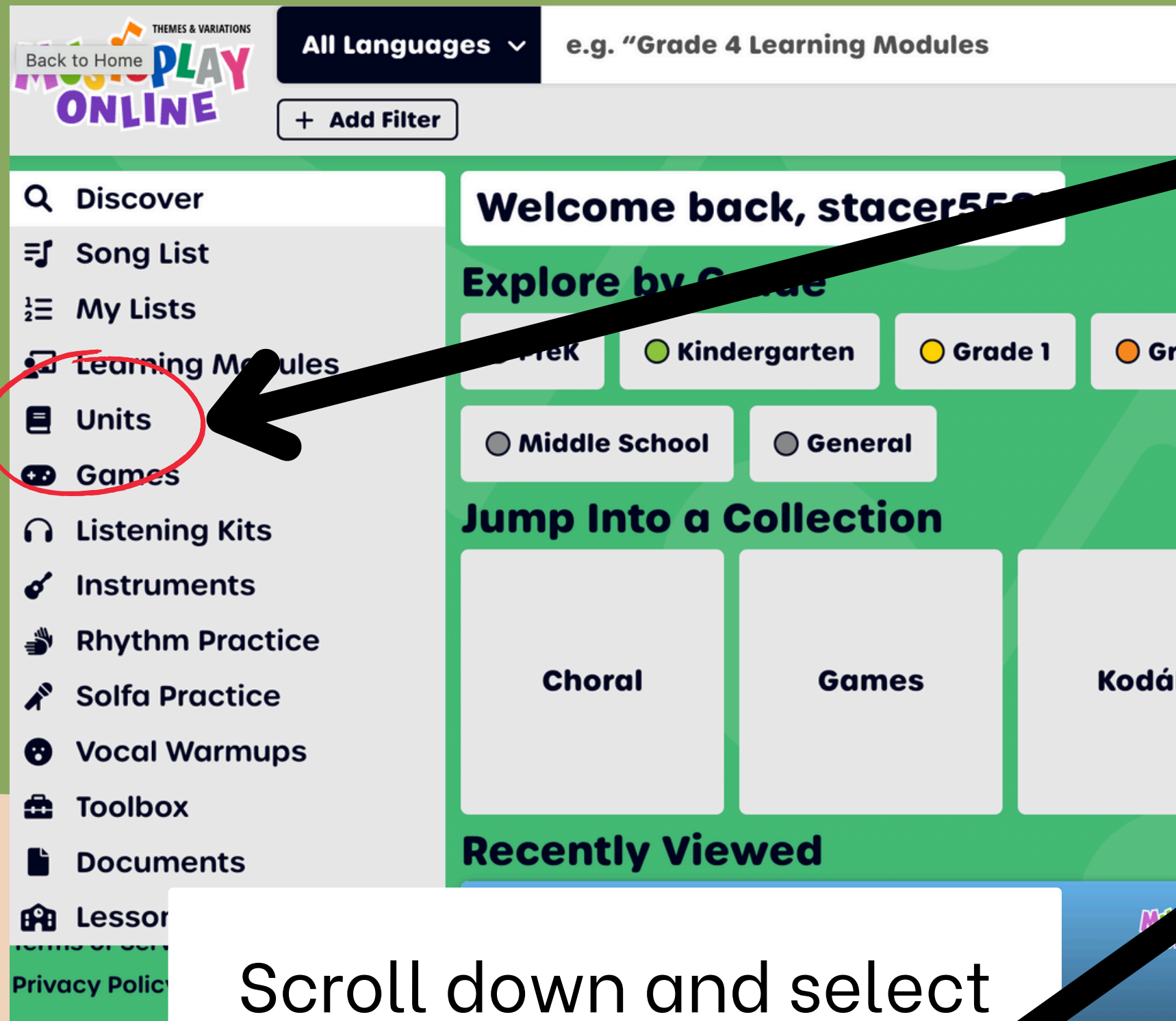


# HISTORY OF THE NUTCRACKER

- The Nutcracker has its origins in a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, titled “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King,” published in 1816. Hoffmann’s tale features a young girl named Clara, who receives a nutcracker doll that comes to life and battles the evil Mouse King.
- In 1892, Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky adapted Hoffmann’s story into a ballet, with choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. The premiere took place at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, but it received a lukewarm reception initially.
- The Nutcracker became a beloved holiday tradition, especially in the United States, thanks to its enchanting music—like the “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy”—and vibrant choreography. Today, it is one of the most performed ballets, celebrated for capturing the magic of the holiday season and the wonder of childhood.



# WHERE ON MUSICPLAY?



Select UNITS on the left-hand menu of the Musicplay homepage.

Scroll down and select NUTCRACKER

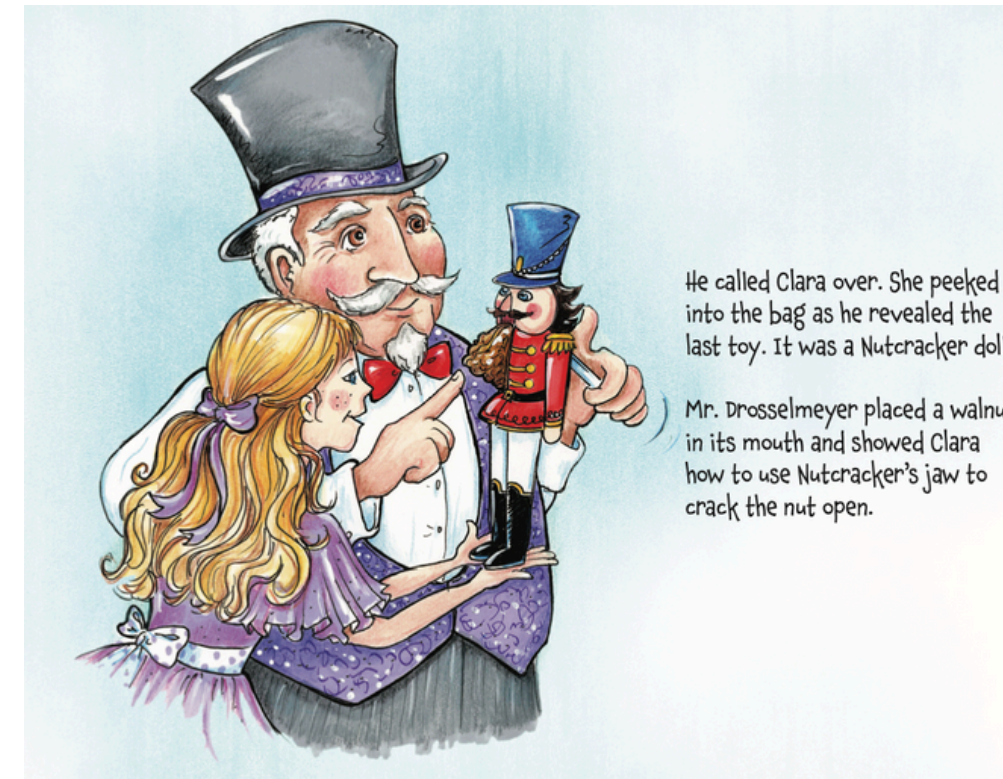
EN	Note Values	Theory
EN	November 11th	Festivals & Holiday
	Nutcracker	Listening Units
EN	One Planet	Programs & Music
EN	Opera	Listening Units
EN	Orange Shirt Day	Festivals & Holiday
EN	Orff Directory	Orff



# NEW! DIGITAL STORYBOOK

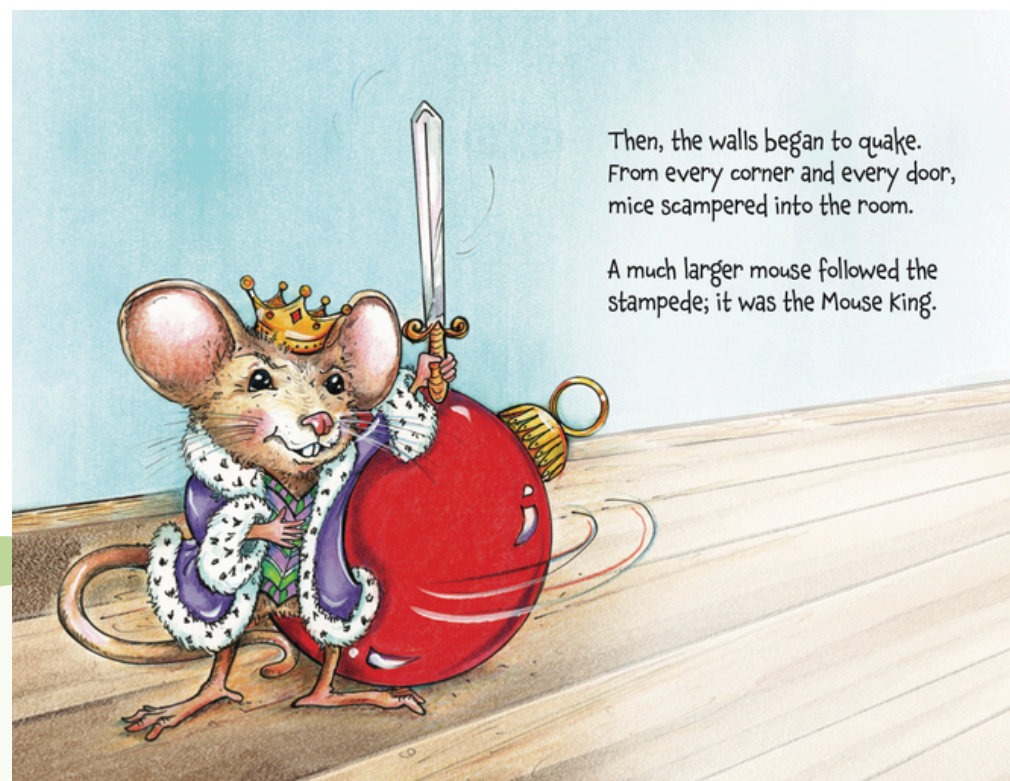


There was a knock on the door. Clara rushed over, followed closely by Fritz. It was Mr. Drosselmeyer, and they welcomed him in.



He called Clara over. She peeked into the bag as he revealed the last toy. It was a Nutcracker doll.

Mr. Drosselmeyer placed a walnut in its mouth and showed Clara how to use Nutcracker's jaw to crack the nut open.



Then, the walls began to quake. From every corner and every door, mice scampered into the room.

A much larger mouse followed the stampede; it was the Mouse King.



The snowy forest morphed before Clara's eyes. Trees turned to candy canes and snow to sugarplums. When the sleigh stopped, they were greeted by the Sugar Plum fairy.





# CHINESE DANCE



1. Listening Map
2. Listening Log
3. Movement Game
4. Rhythm Playalong 1
5. Rhythm Playalong 2
6. Rhythm Playalong Body Percussion
7. Paper Plate Routine

# DANCE OF THE SUGARPLUM FAIRY



1. Listening Map
2. Paper Plate Routine
3. Listening Glyph
4. Rhythm Playalong
5. Compare/Contrast 1 and 2
6. Rhythm Playalong Body Percussion
7. Paper Plate Routine

# DANCE OF THE MIRLITONS



1. Listening Log
2. Rhythm Playalong 1
3. Rhythm Playalong 2
4. Flashlight Routine



# MINATURE OVERTURE



**15. Overture** from The Nutcracker

**Play Along**

Jouer avec      Tocar con

Section A      B      C      or      A      B      C

Icons: Clapping hands, Elbow bump, Sneaker, X (crossed sticks), Drum, Triangle

Musical notation: Quarter note, Eighth notes, Quarter note with slash, Half note, Rest

MUSIC4ALL

1. Listening Log
2. Rhythm Playalong 1
3. Rhythm Playalong 2
4. Rhythm Playalong 3

# TREPAK



1. Listening Log
2. Rhythm Playalong 1
3. Rhythm Playalong 2
4. Scarves Movement

# WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS

## Waltz of the Flowers from the Nutcracker Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Directions: As you listen, think about the music and try to answer as many of the questions as you can. When the selection ends, discuss your answers.

1. What instrument families do you hear?

Strings



Brass



Woodwind



Percussion



2. What instruments do you hear?

3. What is the tempo of the music?

slow

*largo*

very fast

*presto*

4. Is the music quiet or loud? (dynamics)

very quiet

*pp*

very loud

*ff*

5. Is the music smooth and flowing or separated and detached?



smooth



separated

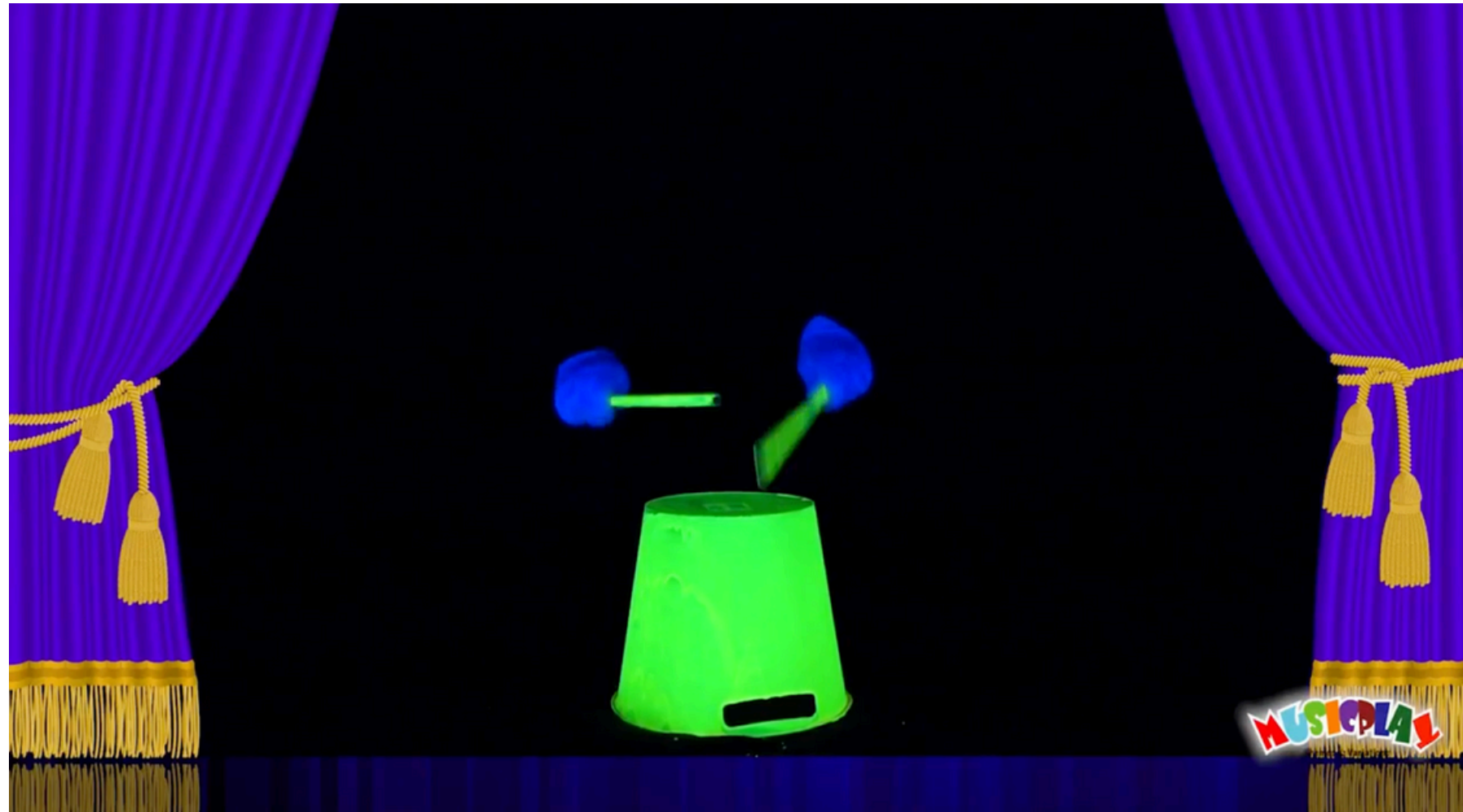
6. Describe the mood of the piece.

7. How does this music make you feel?





# MARCH



1. Bucket Drum Playalong



A

click

rim

top

This system of drum notation consists of three staves: 'click', 'rim', and 'top'. Each staff begins with a double bar line, a common time signature 'C', and a repeat sign. The 'click' staff has a single eighth note in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest in the second, and eighth notes in the third and fourth measures, each with a 'z' (hi-hat) symbol. The 'rim' staff has a single eighth note in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest in the second, and eighth notes in the third and fourth measures. The 'top' staff has a single eighth note in the first measure, followed by a triplet of eighth notes in the second, and eighth notes in the third and fourth measures, each with a 'z' symbol. The system concludes with a double bar line.

click

rim

top

This system of drum notation consists of three staves: 'click', 'rim', and 'top'. Each staff begins with a double bar line and a common time signature 'C'. The 'click' staff has a single eighth note in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest in the second, and eighth notes in the third and fourth measures, each with a 'z' symbol. The 'rim' staff has a single eighth note in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest in the second, and eighth notes in the third and fourth measures, each with a 'z' symbol. The 'top' staff has a single eighth note in the first measure, followed by a quarter rest in the second, and eighth notes in the third and fourth measures. The system concludes with a double bar line.

B

click

rim

top

Drum notation for pattern B, measures 1-4. The notation is organized into three staves: 'click', 'rim', and 'top'. Measure 1: 'click' has a double bar line; 'rim' has a double bar line; 'top' has a double bar line, a quarter note, and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 2: 'click' has a quarter rest and a quarter note with a 'z' (hi-hat); 'rim' has a quarter rest and a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. Measure 3: 'click' has four eighth notes with 'x' marks; 'rim' has a quarter rest and a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest and a quarter note. Measure 4: 'click' has four eighth notes with 'x' marks; 'rim' has a quarter rest and a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest and a quarter note.

click

rim

top

Drum notation for pattern B, measures 5-8. The notation is organized into three staves: 'click', 'rim', and 'top'. Measure 5: 'click' has a quarter rest and a quarter note with a 'z' (hi-hat); 'rim' has a quarter rest and a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. Measure 6: 'click' has four eighth notes with 'x' marks; 'rim' has a quarter rest and a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest and a quarter note. Measure 7: 'click' has four eighth notes with 'x' marks; 'rim' has a quarter rest and a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest and a quarter note. Measure 8: 'click' has four eighth notes with 'x' marks; 'rim' has a quarter rest and a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest and a quarter note.

A

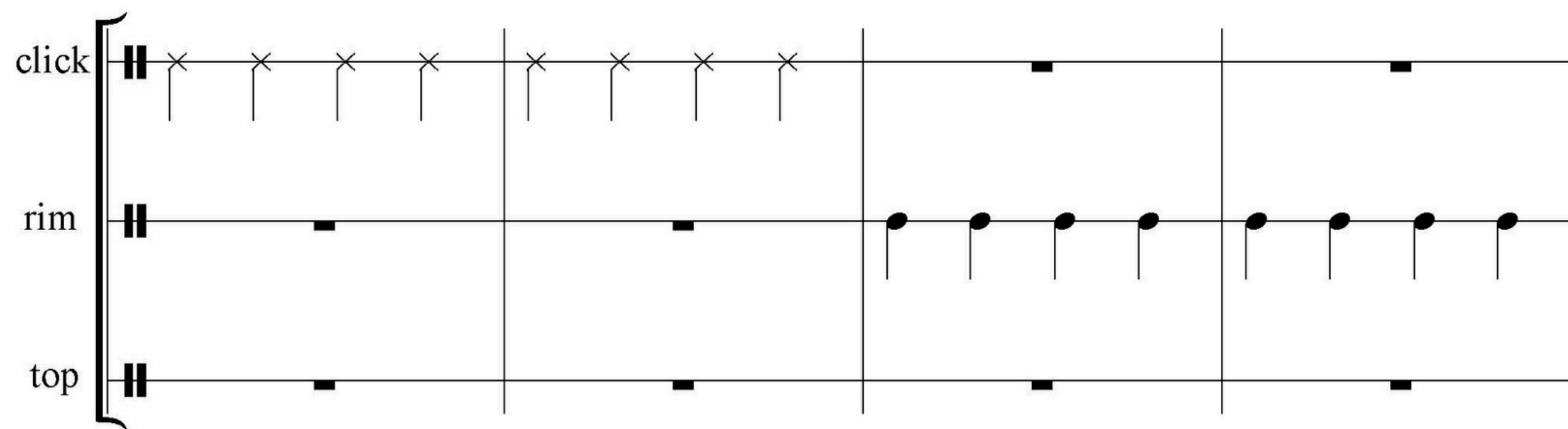
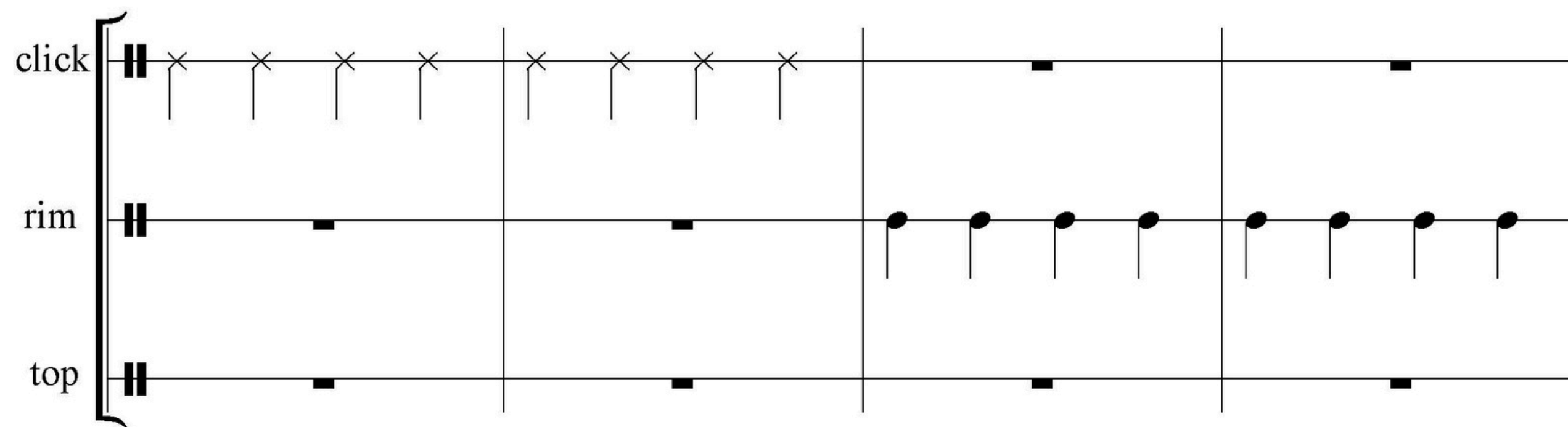
click rim top

This system of musical notation for a drum set is divided into four measures. The 'click' staff (top) features a double bar line at the start, followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note, and a quarter rest in the first measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the second measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the third measure; and a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the fourth measure. The 'rim' staff (middle) has a double bar line at the start, followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note, and a quarter rest in the first measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the second measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the third measure; and a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the fourth measure. The 'top' staff (bottom) has a double bar line at the start, followed by a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the first measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the second measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the third measure; and a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the fourth measure. A '3' is written below the first measure of the 'top' staff, indicating a triplet.

click rim top

This system of musical notation for a drum set is divided into four measures. The 'click' staff (top) features a double bar line at the start, followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note, and a quarter rest in the first measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the second measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the third measure; and a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the fourth measure. The 'rim' staff (middle) has a double bar line at the start, followed by a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the first measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the second measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the third measure; and a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the fourth measure. The 'top' staff (bottom) has a double bar line at the start, followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note, and a quarter rest in the first measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the second measure; a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the third measure; and a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note in the fourth measure. A '3' is written below the first measure of the 'top' staff, indicating a triplet.

C





A

click

rim

top

The first system of drum notation for 'A' consists of three staves: click, rim, and top. The click staff has a double bar line at the start, followed by a repeat sign. The rim staff has a double bar line at the start, followed by a repeat sign. The top staff has a double bar line at the start, followed by a repeat sign. The notation includes eighth notes, triplets, and rests, with a final double bar line and repeat sign at the end of the system.

click

rim

top

The second system of drum notation for 'A' consists of three staves: click, rim, and top. The click staff has a double bar line at the start, followed by a repeat sign. The rim staff has a double bar line at the start, followed by a repeat sign. The top staff has a double bar line at the start, followed by a repeat sign. The notation includes eighth notes, triplets, and rests, with a final double bar line and repeat sign at the end of the system.

B

click

rim

top

Drum notation for pattern B, measures 1-4. The notation is organized into three staves: 'click', 'rim', and 'top'. Measure 1: 'click' has a double bar line; 'rim' has a double bar line; 'top' has a double bar line, a quarter note, and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 2: 'click' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note with an 'x' above it; 'rim' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. Measure 3: 'click' has a quarter note with an 'x' above it, a quarter note with an 'x' above it, a quarter note with an 'x' above it, and a quarter note with an 'x' above it; 'rim' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note. Measure 4: 'click' has a quarter note with an 'x' above it, a quarter note with an 'x' above it, a quarter note with an 'x' above it, and a quarter note with an 'x' above it; 'rim' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note.

click

rim

top

Drum notation for pattern B, measures 1-4. The notation is organized into three staves: 'click', 'rim', and 'top'. Measure 1: 'click' has a double bar line; 'rim' has a double bar line; 'top' has a double bar line, a quarter note, and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 2: 'click' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note with an 'x' above it; 'rim' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. Measure 3: 'click' has a quarter note with an 'x' above it, a quarter note with an 'x' above it, a quarter note with an 'x' above it, and a quarter note with an 'x' above it; 'rim' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note. Measure 4: 'click' has a quarter note with an 'x' above it, a quarter note with an 'x' above it, a quarter note with an 'x' above it, and a quarter note with an 'x' above it; 'rim' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note; 'top' has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note.

A

click

rim

top

This system of drum notation consists of three staves: 'click', 'rim', and 'top'. The 'click' staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a half note on the first line. The 'rim' staff also begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a half note on the first line. The 'top' staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a half note on the first line, a triplet of eighth notes on the first line, and a half note on the first line. The notation continues with various rhythmic patterns across four measures, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some measures featuring a 'x' symbol above a note.

click

rim

top

This system of drum notation consists of three staves: 'click', 'rim', and 'top'. The 'click' staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a half note on the first line. The 'rim' staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a half note on the first line, a triplet of eighth notes on the first line, and a half note on the first line. The 'top' staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a half note on the first line, a triplet of eighth notes on the first line, and a half note on the first line. The notation continues with various rhythmic patterns across four measures, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some measures featuring a 'x' symbol above a note.

# FORM TOOL

## Form



Intro

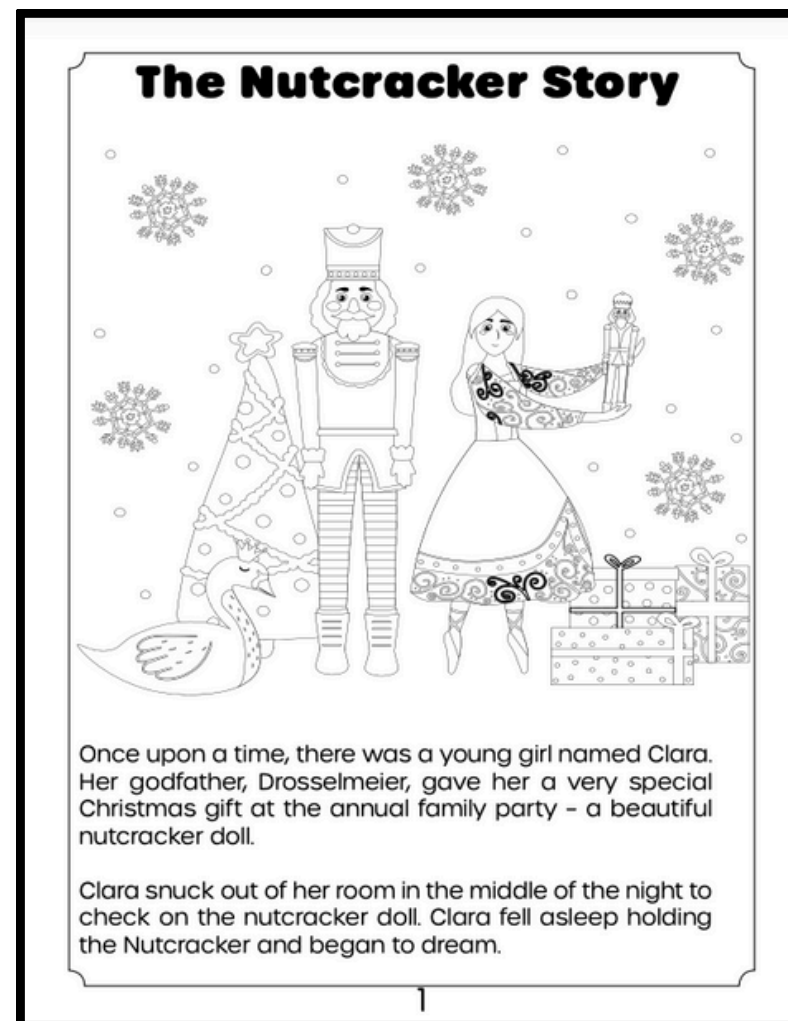
Ending

Interlude

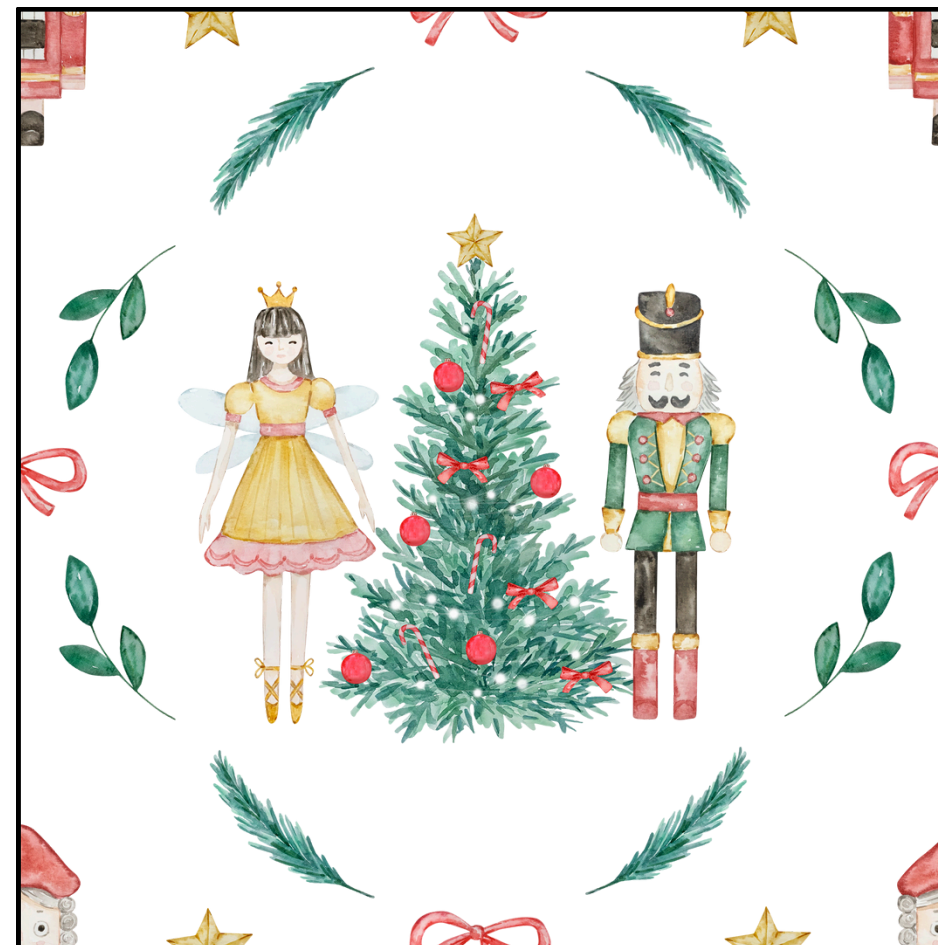
Choose the shapes that represent the form.



# EXTRA RESOURCES



Storybook  
Colouring Pages



Ballet Videos

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

### Listening Kit 2

#### Listening Log

Directions: As you listen, think about the music and try to answer as many of the questions as you can. When the selection ends, discuss your answers.

1. What instrument families do you hear? \_\_\_\_\_

Strings   Brass   Woodwind   Percussion

2. What instruments do you hear? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How fast is the music? (tempo) \_\_\_\_\_

slow ..... very fast  
largo   andante   allegro   presto

4. Is the music quiet or loud? (dynamics) \_\_\_\_\_

very quiet ..... very loud  
pp   p   f   ff

5. Is the music smooth or separated? \_\_\_\_\_

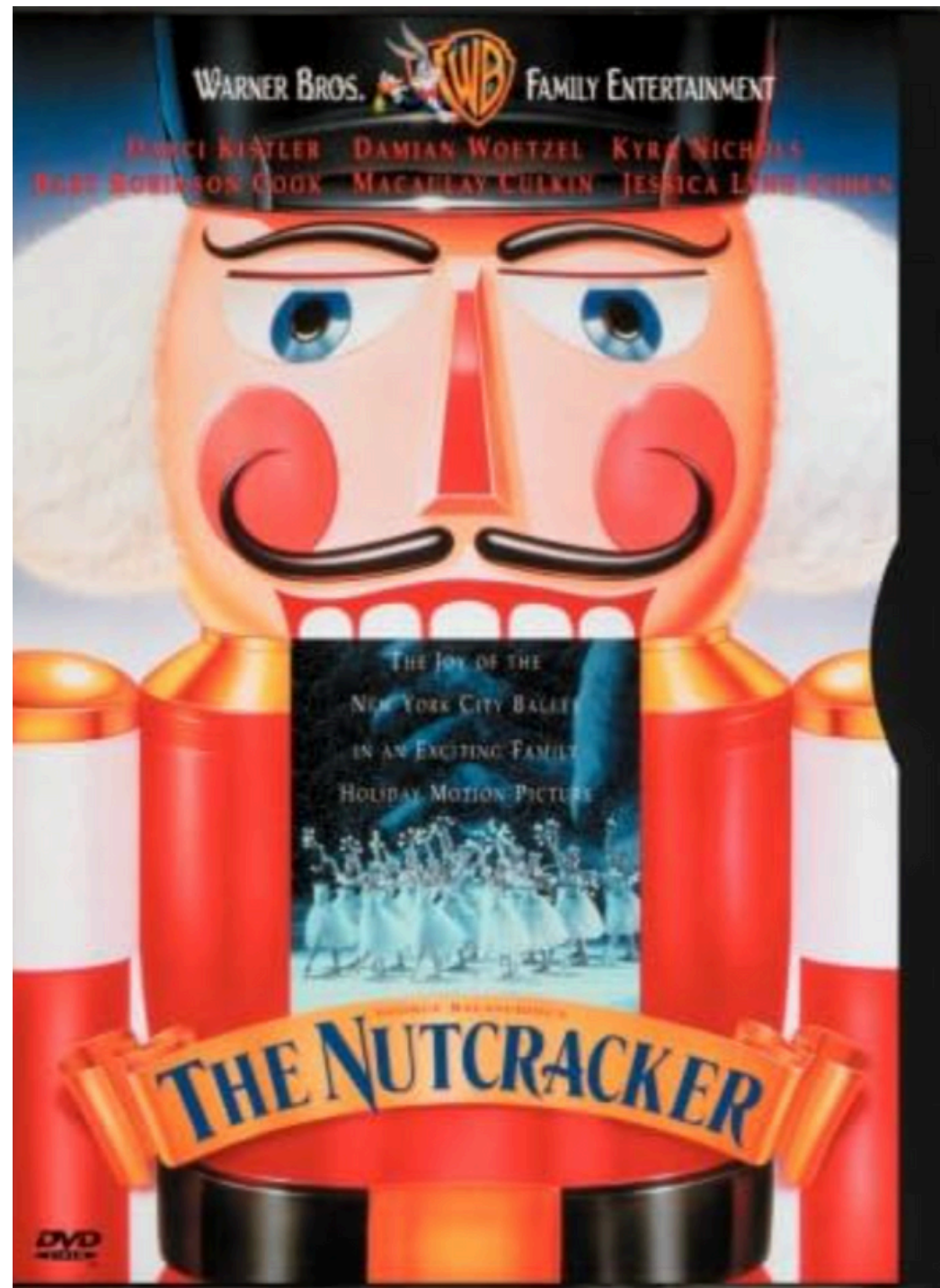
smooth   separated

6. What does this music make you think of? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How does this music make you feel? \_\_\_\_\_

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Listening Logs  
(multi-grade options)

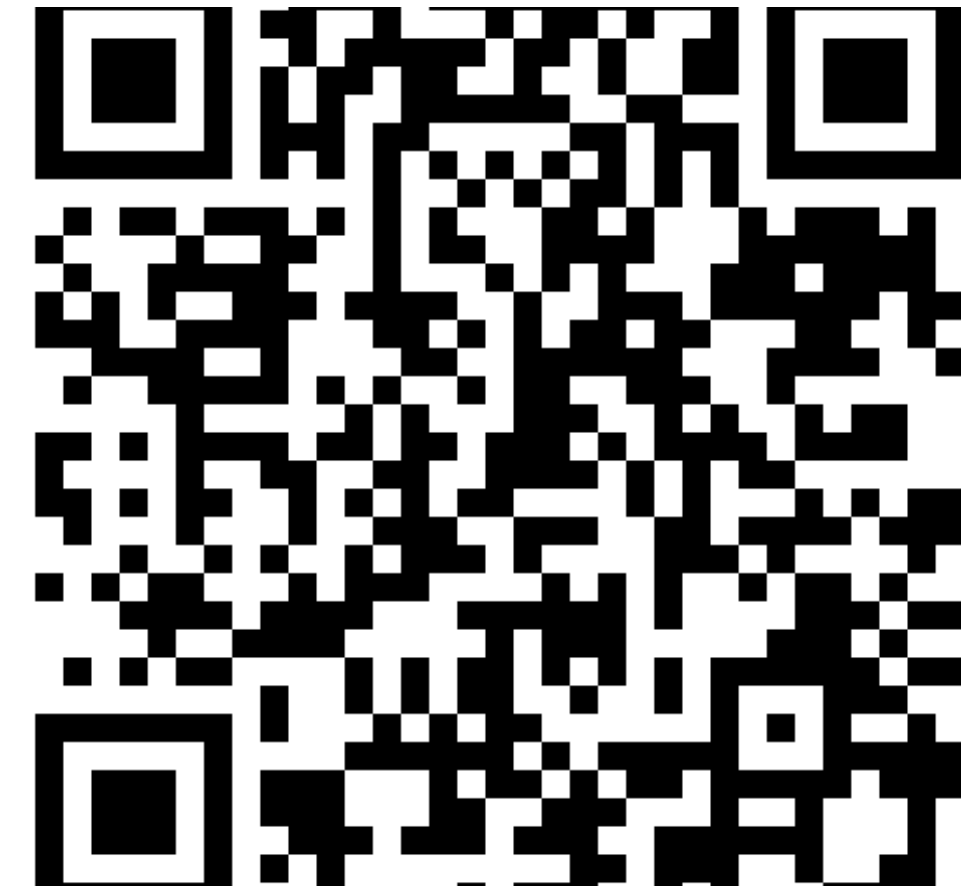


## George Balanchine's The Nutcracker (1993)

- Available for DVD purchase on Amazon.
- Was available on Amazon Prime.

# QUESTIONS?

- Wednesday Webinars
- Musicplay Newsletter
- Musicplay Teachers Facebook
- Musicplay YouTube
- Musicplay Instagram



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