

Listen & Draw – Berlioz’s Shepherds

The third movement of Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, called *Scène aux champs*, describes a day in the countryside. At the beginning and end we hear shepherds call out to each other in the distance as they tend to their sheep. Or perhaps it's Berlioz imagining himself standing in the countryside calling out to someone across the hills.

Here's an activity encouraging you to draw what you hear, to help you to really listen to the music and see what pictures your mind imagines.

You will need paper and pencils, crayons or pens. You can do the activity whilst you listen to this section in the concert [at 00:11:20], or as an extended separate activity listening to the full track on Apple Music, Spotify or Amazon Music [<https://smarturl.it/BerliozSF>].

1. Before you listen, draw a set of gently rolling hills or download and print the templates from our website. You can stick both together for an extra wide landscape!
2. Draw a picture of a shepherd, or the composer Hector Berlioz, on one side of the page. There's a picture of Berlioz in the concert programme – he had a large quiff of bright red hair! Then, as you listen to the music, draw another shepherd in the landscape. Listen carefully and think where it sounds like he should be.
3. As you listen, fill in your countryside picture from the images the music creates in your mind. What can you hear ... trees in the wind, birds perhaps, or a stream bubbling along?
4. Now listen to the Orchestra playing the end of the movement. Can you spot the differences to the music that makes you want to change or add to your landscape? Is someone missing, and what's that you can hear in the distance?

Extra activity

1. Listen again to the beginning of the movement, with the opening cor anglais and oboe tunes which portray the shepherds or Berlioz. Can you work out what they are saying to each other? Why not add this to your drawing as speech bubbles – one for each musical 'sentence'? Watch our presenter Rachel explain more here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSRSeoJfCZ8>