



Activity 3: Exploring dynamics

The orchestra will play **Mussorgsky's A Night on the Bare Mountain**.

Listen out for the instructions during the lesson. While the orchestra plays, listen carefully to the first eight bars.

What dynamics do you think the music starts with?

- a) Very quiet – gets louder – then quiet – then loud - then quiet again
- b) Loud – gets louder – then quieter
- c) Very loud – gets quieter

During the lesson we'll be introducing you to simple dynamic markings, and how different dynamics can influence the mood and feel of a piece of music.

Here's a useful table of some dynamic markings and what they mean:

SYMBOL	WORD	MEANING
<i>f</i>	forte	loud
<i>p</i>	piano	quiet
<i>ff</i>	fortissimo	very loud
<i>pp</i>	pianissimo	very quiet
<i>mf</i>	mezzo-forte	quite loud
<i>mp</i>	mezzo-piano	quite quiet
	crescendo	getting louder
	diminuendo or decrescendo	getting quieter

Challenge activity!

Listen to your favourite piece of music - It doesn't matter what it is but please be considerate of other household members!

Listen several times—Try and 'map out' the dynamics of your piece of music.

Draw a line and then label using the above dynamic markings. Annotate and explain what is happening at that time in the piece. See my example below.

