



A New Year Carol by Benjamin Britten

In 1934 Benjamin Britten wrote a series of 12 songs for the school in Wales where his brother was a teacher. These songs, called Friday Afternoons (that was when pupils had their singing practice), started a long process of writing music for schools and Britten's lifelong interest in music for young people and in music education. Britten set to music text by many different poets and authors. The music always illustrates beautifully the mood of the text. All the songs are accompanied by the piano.

A New Year Carol is one of the Friday Afternoons songs. The text is a traditional folk song and was included by Walter de la Mare in his anthology of poems for children, Tom Tiddler's Ground (1931).

In the 1920s and early 30s, children sang mostly nursery rhymes and playground chants, and folk songs with simple accompaniments. When Britten composed these songs, they would have felt very contemporary to the children, just as it does when we sing the latest pop songs at school today.

Listen and appraise.

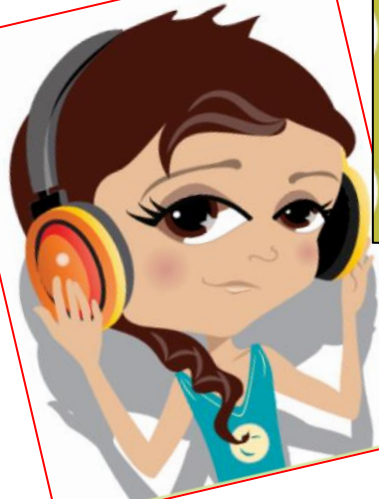
Think:

What can you hear?

What is the story told in this song?

What is the mood of the song?

How does the music make the story more interesting?



Key vocabulary	Definition
	Minim rest
	Time signature
	Crotchet rest
	Crotchet
	Minim
Recorder	One of the earliest woodwind instruments. The recorder has a mouthpiece and is played like a whistle, by blowing directly into the top of the instrument. It is a simple wooden tube, usually with eight fingerholes, which are covered to produce different notes.



B

A

G

Learn Recorder - B, A, G In Three

Calmly

Music by Nick Squires

Count in 1, 2, 3 2, 2, 3

Introduction 1, 2, 3 2, 2, 3 3, 2, 3 4, 2, 3

We will be learning to play B,A and G on the recorder. We will then learn to read sheet music when performing a simple piece of music. We will need to consider our beathing when singing and playing a woodwind instrument

Breathing