



NAME _____

DATE _____

HUMOR IN MUSIC
 DETT Humoreske (Honey)
 RACHMANINOV Humoresque in G Major, op. 10, no. 5

WHAT DO YOU HEAR?



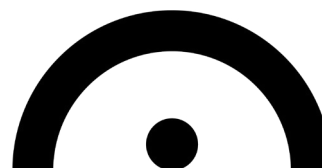
In this episode, we discuss how composers add humor into their music by using different techniques to create musical “jokes” or surprises.

Let’s look at our first piece by Nathaniel Dett. Buddy demonstrates two things that the composer does to make the music sound lighthearted and funny. What are they?

1. _____

2. _____

Buddy explains that the composer uses a **fermata** to allow the musician to have fun with the length of the pauses in the music. This gives the music an element of surprise, which adds to the silly character of the piece.



The speed (tempo) of the music is _____

Does it ever change? YES / NO

The volume (dynamics) of the music is _____

The pitch of the music is mostly _____

The style and mood of the music is _____



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What kind of character does this music remind you of?

Based on the music, what do you think that character might be doing?



Draw a picture of your character below!



Let's move on to our next funny piece! Buddy says that there are two things that make this next piece funny, too. What two things does he demonstrate?

1. _____

2. _____

Buddy uses the word "**syncopation**" to describe the second humorous element in this piece of music. Using the [Classics for Kids Musical Dictionary](#), look up the definition of this word. What does it mean?

Syncopation can give music a surprising, unsteady, and sometimes silly feel, as if a juggler is trying to keep too many balls up in the air and ends up dropping some of them! What other funny scenes come to mind as you listen to the syncopation in this piece?



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Pick one of your funny scene ideas and draw it below!