

Introduction – the inspiration behind the music

Watch the film that introduces *D'un matin de printemps*, which translates as 'Of a spring morning'.

On the surface, this piece is light and cheerful, full of the sounds of spring. Use the space below to write down some descriptive words or phrases to do with the spring:

Spring Senses – what might you see, hear, smell, or feel?

See	Hear
Smell	Feel

Lili Boulanger's music effectively captures the busy, hopefulness of a spring morning. But it also has moments of shadow and darkness. These dark moments could be about a simple spring storm. But if we look closer into Lili's world, we discover two things that would also impact her music in a significant way.

1. Lili was living with a chronic illness. In fact, she died less than a year after this piece was composed, at the age of just 24. How might Lili have been feeling? Write down a few descriptive words:

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2. Lili was living in Paris in 1917, at the height of World War I. She and her sister organised efforts to support French soldiers. What might that have been like? Write down a few ideas:

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If thinking about illness or conflict makes you feel particularly sad or worried, please talk to a trusted adult about your feelings.

D'un matin de printemps – musical features

The music has two main musical moods, a playful, busy mood, and a contrasting darker, shadowy mood. These ideas alternate throughout the piece. Let's call the ideas 'A' (light) and 'B' (shadow).

A	B
<i>Light</i>	<i>Shadow</i>

Watch the performance (ideally more than once), and decide which musical feature belongs in which section. Write 'A' or 'B' next to each feature (or both, if you think the feature applies to both!).

Melody

- Short melodies passed between instruments that sound like bird song _____
- A solemn melody played by the solo violin _____
- Fast rising woodwind **scales** that sound like insects or flurries of wind _____

Accompaniment

- A busy staccato **ostinato** in the strings that gives a clear pulse _____
- Quiet sustained notes and chords _____
- Mysterious **trills** _____

Dynamics & Articulation

- Quick changes of **dynamics** (volume) that sound energetic _____
- Gradual changes in **dynamics** that sound more moving and emotional _____
- Mostly **staccato** (detached) sounds _____
- Mostly **legato** (connected / smooth) sounds _____

Rhythm

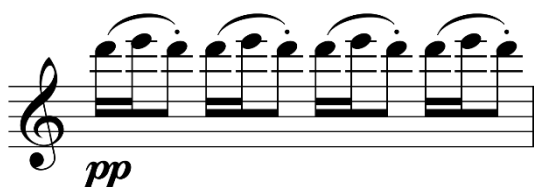
- Slow-moving patterns with **triplets** (groups of three sounds) _____
- Quick-moving patterns with playful **dotted rhythms** (long-short sounds) _____

Challenge – can you use the information above to answer this question in full sentences?

How does Lili Boulanger create contrasting moods in *D'un matin de printemps*?

D'un matin de printemps – musical detective

Match the imaginary bird to its music! Write the name of the bird under its bird song. HINT – read the descriptions of the birds and look at the shapes and volumes of the music. There may be other musical clues too. How many can you identify? If appropriate, discuss your reasons as a class. Sketch your own birds to match descriptions if you have time!



Presto



I have a large beak
and I am VERY noisy.
I can sing very high
and very low

Broadbill

I am so tiny I can hardly
be seen. I chirrup
repeatedly and fly in
straight lines

Gilded Wren

I am very fast, and very
colourful! I change
direction quickly to
avoid predators

Prismwing

I am HUGE. My song
is a low-pitched,
ominous falling
pattern. I always sing
it twice.

Stormbeak

I have the smoothest of all the bird
song. My song is beautiful and
lyrical. No note is repeated, as I
am a graceful, complex creature.

Shadowflare

D'un matin de printemps – creative responses

COMPOSING / ART – continue with the theme of bird song. Create two imaginary birds and make them as contrasting as possible in physical appearance and character. Draw, paint, or sculpt your birds. Imagine what their music could sound like – you could create a plan by writing down the types of instruments and sounds your birds could be represented by, or you could use music manuscript to write down your bird song for each bird. You could even record their songs using your voice, an instrument you play, or using music technology.

WRITING – in this piece, Lili shows us two different perspectives of a spring morning. Write a poem or short story to explore two different perspectives of the same place or event. Here are some starting points to inspire you:

- A garden in winter and in summer
- Your school hall at a busy mealtime and in the middle of an exam
- The street where you live at the busiest time of day and the middle of the night
- A city during a celebration, and a city in conflict

RESEARCH – find out about the composer and the music

- Find out more about Lili Boulanger and her sister Nadia. Find out about their family, their lives, their music making, and the lasting impact their work has had on music and musicians. You could present your findings in lots of different ways, e.g. a physical presentation, a speech, or in the form of an imaginary interview with Lili or her sister.
- Find out about the musical style of the Impressionist movement in art and music. Look up some impressionist artists and other impressionist composers. What were the most important characteristics of impressionist art and music? You could present your findings in lots of different ways, e.g. a physical presentation, a speech, or in the form of an imaginary interview with Lili or her sister.

D'un matin de printemps – musical instrument wordsearch

There are 12 musical instruments to be found here. All of them play in *D'un matin de printemps*!

