

Excerpts from *The Lark Ascending*

by George Meredith
chosen by Vaughan Williams

*He rises and begins to round,
He drops the silver chain of sound,
Of many links without a break,
In chirrup, whistle, slur and shake.*

*For singing till his heaven fills,
'Tis love of earth that he instils,*

*And ever winging up and up,
Our valley is his golden cup,
And he the wine which overflows,
To lift us with him when he goes.*



*Till lost on his aerial rings
In light, and then the fancy sings.*



Use these extra ideas from the poem to create your own music inspired by birds

*A press of hurried notes that run
So fleet they scarce are more than one,
Yet changingly the trills repeat
And linger ringing while they fleet,*



*Shrill, irreflective, unrestrain'd,
Rapt, ringing, on the jet sustain'd
Without a break, without a fall,
Sweet-silvery, sheer lyrical,*



Watch Drake Music Scotland's collaboration with Howard Moody, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Ashcraig Special School, Glasgow.

Their piece was based on rare birdsong and uses a mix of acoustic instruments, technology and a choir.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGNzawgqRSO>



Other pieces to listen to:

Delius - On Hearing the First Cuckoo of Spring

Messiaen - Réveil des Oiseaux (The Birds Awake)

and

Petites Esquisses d'Oiseaux

(Listen to the last movement for the Skylark)

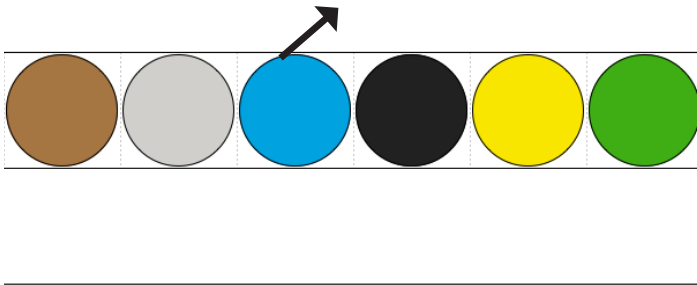
Elgar - Owls

Beethoven - Pastoral Symphony - 2nd movement



Try using the start of Vaughan Williams' 'The Lark Ascending' to inspire a solo

Use these colours (in any shape) for your solo



This section starts the piece. You play your solo over the top of the last note.

1		Keep the sound going
2		Keep the sound going
3		Keep the sound going
4		Keep the sound going

The sound of the last note keeps going below your solo