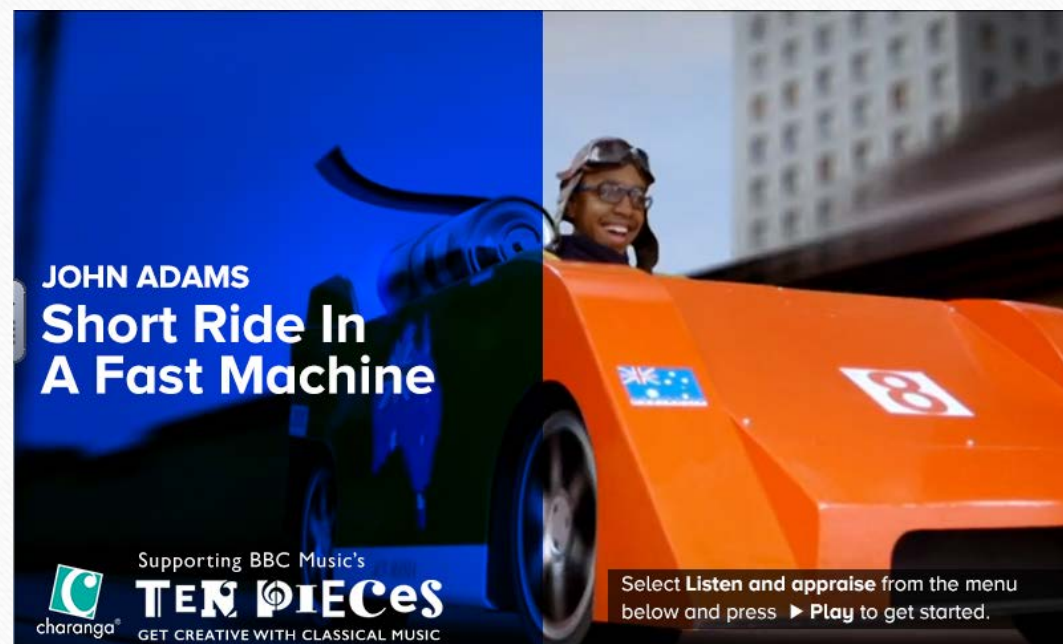




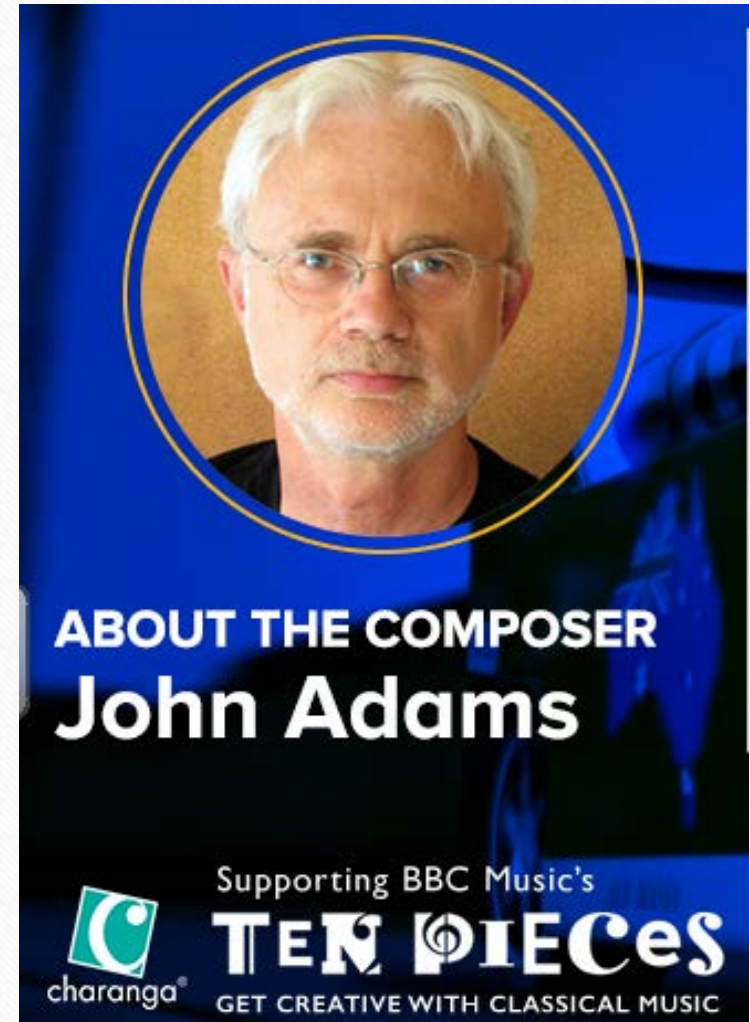
West Park Primary Lower Ks2 Assembly

Lower Key Stage 2 Viewing Short Ride in a Fast Machine by John Adams



About the composer

John Adams is an American composer and conductor who lives in California and who began composing at the age of ten. He has written operas and orchestral music, often about recent history and social issues.



Short Ride in a Fast Machine was composed for the opening of an American music festival called Great Woods in 1986. It's written for a large orchestra and is described as a fanfare. A fanfare is normally a loud flourish played on brass instruments that introduces someone or something.



John Adams is known for writing minimalist music. Minimalism is a style of composition that uses repeated patterns of notes (ostinato) and a steady beat.

Listen out for...

A man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a dark suit, is shown from the chest up. He is holding a wooden block with a blue strap and is in the process of striking it with a mallet. The background is dark and out of focus.

...the woodblock, heard from the very beginning.

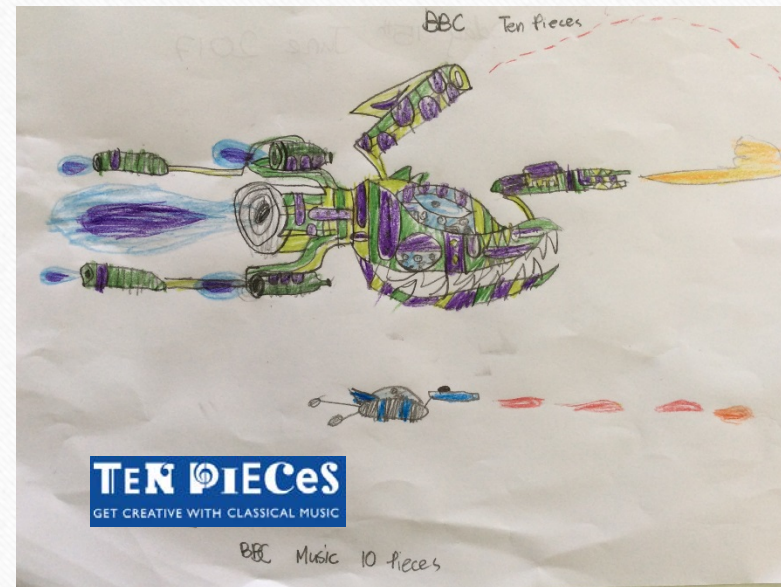
It keeps a steady pulse throughout the piece while everything else spins, flies and zips around it.

Select **Next** below for more questions to help you listen and appraise the piece as it plays.

West Park Primary Art inspired by John Adams

A Short Ride in a Fast Machine

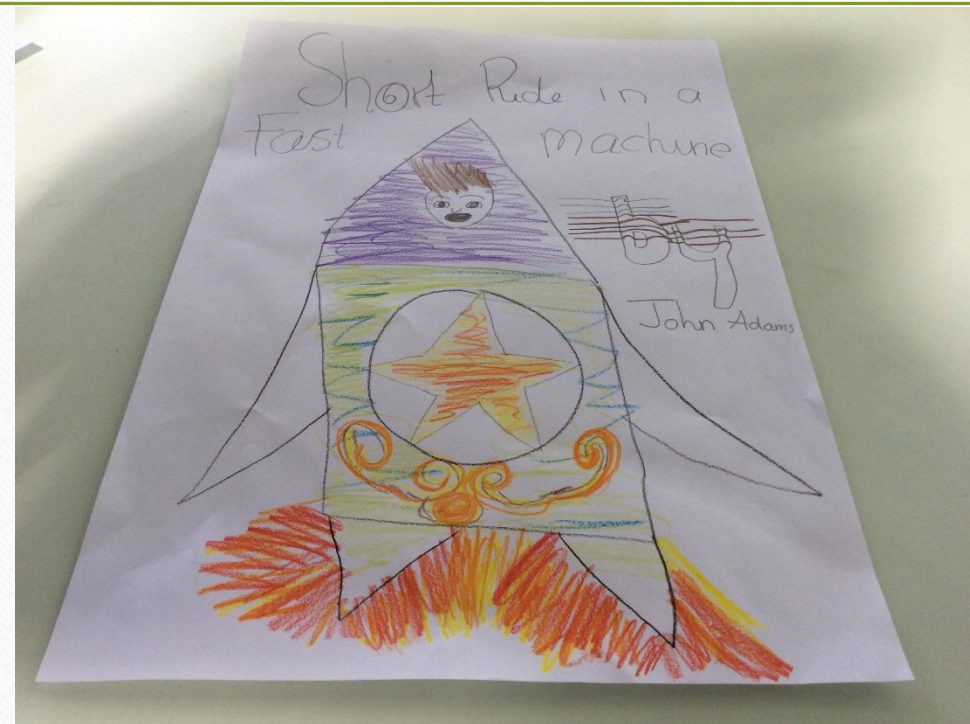
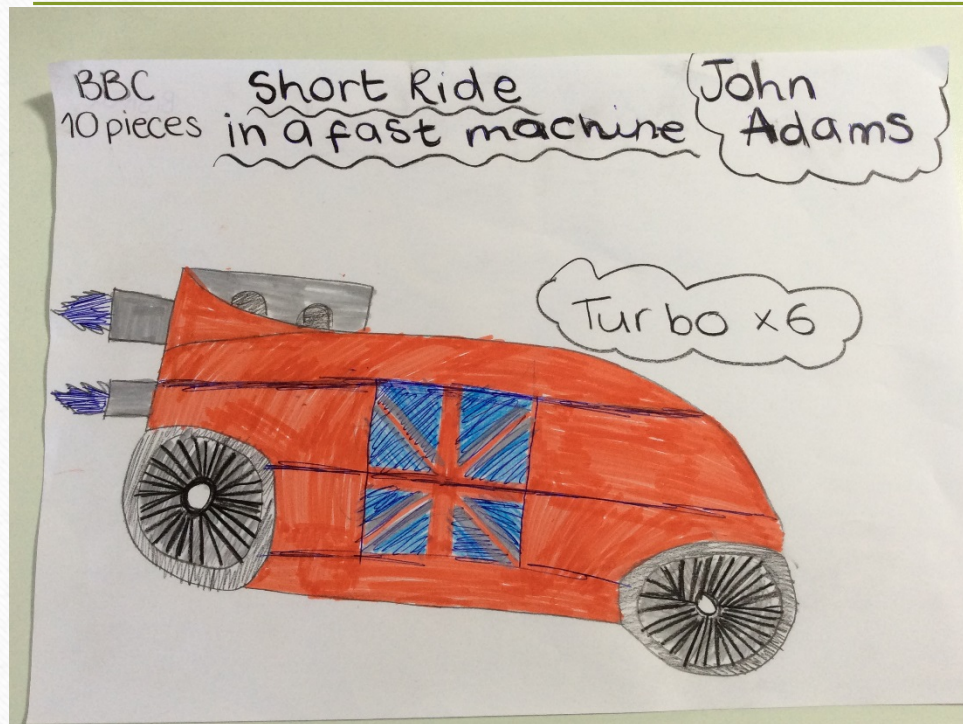
Competition Winners



Competition Winners



Competition Winners



Competition Winners



Competition Winners



Competition Winners

