

A legend.  
A legacy.  
A lifetime of inspiration.

## Passion in Music

### Key Information

**Subject area:** Music

**Time required:** This resource is planned to be taught as one 50 minute lessons.

**Activity:** Listening to and analysing music

**Eric Liddell values:** Passion

**Key skills:**

- Listening
- Analytical thinking

**Learning intentions:**

- To understand how passion can be conveyed through music.

**Success criteria:**

- I understand how music is used to portray feelings and emotions.
- I can analyse music to understand how the composer has created a feeling of passion.

**Experiences and outcomes:**

- *(EXA 2-19a)* I have listened to a range of music and can respond by discussing my thoughts and feelings. I can give and accept constructive comment on my own and others' work.

**Equipment:**

- Paper and pens

**Supporting Materials:**

- [Presentation](#)
- [Link](#) to 'Hymn to the Fallen'

### Lesson Format

In this lesson students will be encouraged to discuss and think about how emotions can be conveyed through music. Pupils will analyse a piece of music to understand how the composer, John Williams has created a feeling of passion.

If the class hasn't seen the '[Eric Liddell 100 introductory video](#)' please show this now.



### Uncle Eric Fact

Eric Liddell was given a hero's farewell as he left Edinburgh to journey to China for his missionary work. Traffic was brought to a standstill in Edinburgh city centre as crowds gathered, many of them singing. Once inside Edinburgh Waverley station, Eric was carried along the platform to his train and gave a warm-hearted speech to the crowd. Someone from the crowd then started singing "Jesus shall reign" and the entire crowd joined in force, singing several hymns until the train pulled away from the station. The hymns sang created a buzz among the group of people creating a passionate and uplifting atmosphere.

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## Starter Task

Begin a class discussion by talking through the Uncle Eric fact. You could use some of the following questions to prompt the discussions:

- Can you name any events or occasions in which it is expected music will be played?
- Why do you think music is so effective in such situations?
- Do you think music can be used to express passion?
- Can you think of any music you already know that conjures up the emotion of passion?
- Is it the lyrics use or can an instrumental piece of music be just as effective?
- Eric Liddell's passion in life was his religion. What else can we be passionate about in life?

## Task 1

Split the class into groups of roughly four, smaller or larger groups will also work. Provide each group with a piece of paper and a pen. Explain to the class that they are going to listen to a piece of music and create a mind map using three categories (emotions, instruments and concepts) that will help them to analyse the music. Pupils will listen to an audio of "Hymn to the Fallen" by John Williams but they are not to be told anything about the music. Students should listen to the music whilst writing down any emotions they feel the music conjures up, any prominent instruments they hear being used and any musical concepts they can hear within the music. It may be of use to talk through the possible concepts with the class before listening to the music again. Before listening to the music it is important to explain to pupils that it is possible to have conflicting emotions within one piece of music.

After listening to the song ask the groups to discuss their mind map and what they heard and felt when listening to the music. Ask groups to share their thoughts with the rest of the class. You could use some of the following questions and statements to aid the discussion:

- Why do you think a choir was used in this way?
- In what setting would you hear a choir singing like this?
- The long snare drum roll at the end of the piece, where are you likely to hear that in real life?
- Can you try to describe why you think the composer has used the instruments and concepts he has. What do you feel they represent?
- Can you guess what story the music is trying to tell?
- Can you guess the topic of passion in this piece of music? (love, sorrow, religion, celebration, family, sport, national pride)?
- How did the composer try to convey passion?
- Is the passion in the music that of national pride? Pride of the military and being a part of a team?
- What are you passionate about?
- What music would you use to highlight a moment of passion within your life?

## Plenary

The class can now be told that the piece of music is "Hymn to the Fallen" by John Williams and was used in the concluding scenes of "Saving Private Ryan", a film which depicts The Battle of Normandy in World War II.

Ask pupils to watch the video which plays the song to moments within the film. Ask pupils to answer the following:

- How do you think the composer effectively used instruments & concepts to portray this story?
- Are there similarities between the storyline of this film and Eric Liddell's life experiences? Remind pupils that Eric endured living in a war torn country and will have observed many scenes similar to those in the aforementioned film.