

Friday Afternoons:

A decorative graphic consisting of several solid-colored circles of varying sizes and colors (orange, yellow, green) scattered across the white background. One large orange circle is partially visible on the left edge, another large orange circle is in the upper right, a yellow circle is to its right, and a green circle is on the far right edge. A smaller orange circle is positioned between the 'The' and 'Lighthouse' parts of the title.

# The Lighthouse Keeper

## Teachers notes on these resources:

---

- Adapt, adapt, adapt! These resources are designed in a very flexible way as no two classes are the same. You know your students best, so please do change the bits you need so your class can get the most out of them. And if you want to change the themes I've mentioned in the resources- please do to make them topic or project specific.
- These resources are simply starting points, feel free to extend in whatever way suits you and your class.
- The resources are written as if talking to the students, with questions that you can ask directly to your class. However, they are designed to be used in creative sessions facilitated by you, rather than printed out and given to the children as worksheets.
- Have fun! These are three really lovely songs- listen as much as you can to them, and really explore them, just like you would a poem or a story. If this work takes you off on a tangent, that is great!
- Listen to more of Errollyn Wallen's music! Her music is brilliant- take a listen!
- Did you know, Errollyn was commissioned to do a new arrangement of Jerusalem at the Proms 2020?  
You can find out more about her approach to this challenge here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-54115638>

# What is a composer and what do they do?

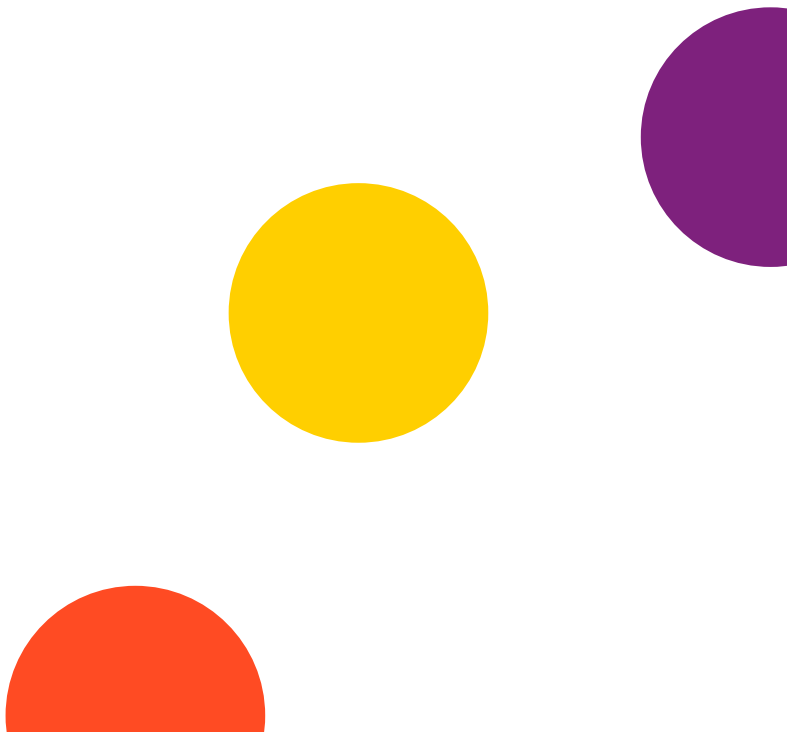


Composers are people who tell stories, convey emotions and paint pictures through the music they write.

A composer might be inspired by nature, paintings, poetry, politics, a life event, a shape... anything really! They take this inspiration and create melodies, harmonies and rhythmical patterns that then take audiences on a journey.

The composer can write for whatever instruments they like; it might be a solo instrument, a duo, a quartet, or even a huge symphony orchestra (which could be about 80 different musicians).

Many composers play an instrument too (although this isn't always the case) as it helps to know how all the instruments work, and the possibilities of all the different sounds.



# Errollyn Wallen - The Composer



Errollyn Wallen is one of the most prominent composers that there is writing today.

Most recently she arranged a version of Jerusalem for the Last Night of the Proms, but she has also written many, many pieces for orchestras, opera companies and chamber groups (smaller groups of musicians e.g a duo, or quintet).

Wallen has won lots awards for writing music, and was recently awarded a CBE from the Queen.

She lives in a lighthouse in Scotland where she can see basking sharks and whales from her window.

# The Lighthouse Keeper

The Lighthouse Keeper is a fun, characterful  
song all about a solitary lighthouse!

# Let's Listen to The Lighthouse Keeper



**Listen to the Lighthouse Keeper. As you listen, what can you hear?**

- What instruments can you hear?
- Do any words stick out?
- What is the story of this song?

**Listen closer to the accompaniment (the instrument playing alongside the voices)...**

- What image do you think the pattern being played at the beginning creates?
- Does the accompaniment change throughout? If so, does the image in the story change?

**Listen again and this time start to draw, paint or sketch the story that the composer is telling.**

- Maybe you'll draw a lighthouse...what colours will it be?
- Maybe you draw the ship you can see?
- Or maybe you see a wintery sea landscape with a boat sailing through snow... it's up to you!

# Create a soundscape



A soundscape is just like a landscape; but instead of using images, it sets the scene using sounds.

Let's create a soundscape inspired by The Lighthouse.

First we need to collect our sounds.

What sounds does the song make you think of?

What sounds would you hear in the lighthouse?

Do the lyrics of the song give you some inspiration?

## For example you could have:

- A flowing sea wave e.g making a wooooosh sound with your voice
- Wiggling fish e.g gentle claps with your hands
- A honk from a boat e.g a foghorn noise with your voice
- A snore e.g make a loud snore sound!

What else might you hear? Remember, there aren't any wrong answers!

Practise four chosen sounds with your class. Then split up into groups and give each group a sound. Listen to each group make their sound. Then decide on an order, what group should go first?

**For example, your piece might go like this;**

**Flowing sea wave**

**A boat honk**

**Wiggling fish**

**Flowing Sea wave**

**A snore**

Give your soundscape a structure! Decide on a final order for your sounds (a sound can come back more than once, and they could happen at the same time!). Why not add some louds and quiets?

Once you've practised your soundscape and have your sounds, here are some other things you can do to extend this activity:

- Change the order of the sounds
- Create another soundscape with a different setting? What about a cold winter's night? Or a snow storm? Or a soundscape to paint the picture of Christmas Eve!
- Encourage a child to lead it- getting a child to lead is excellent for building confidence and increasing leadership skills. It's also a really accessible way for non-verbal children to lead! Come up with your own leading (in music the leader is the conductor) signs; what hand sign will mean people will start, stop, carry on, get louder etc.? If it's just you and one student, get them to lead you!
- Put a pulse to it
- Add in pitched instruments and come up with some musical motifs
- Have two different sounds per group and there's a point in the soundscape where everybody switches to their second sound- the second sound could have some pitch?



# Where would you like to live?



Errollyn Wallen lives in a lighthouse in the North of Scotland. In winter-time there's not very much daylight there, so in the olden days (before all this amazing technology) boats would need lighthouses to show them where the land was.

Where would you like to live when you are older? And what would you be able to see on a winter's day or evening from the window?

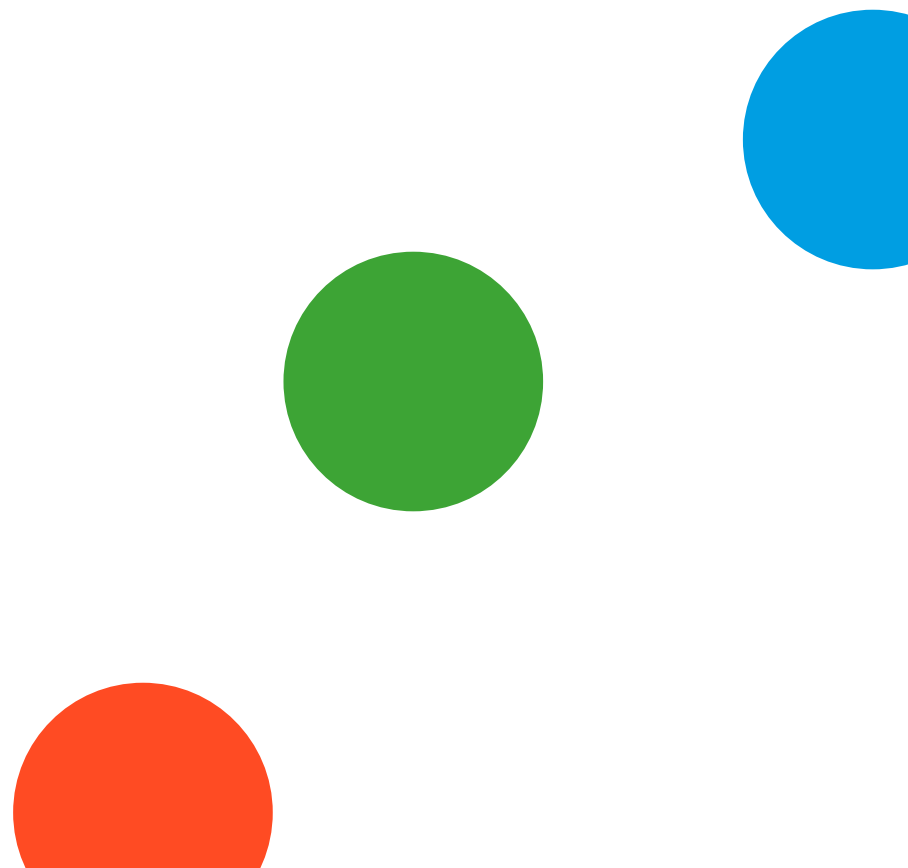
Write a poem or draw what you might be able to see!

**For an extension activity, create a new soundscape and add it underneath the poem, or have all the sounds feature in the picture.**

## Have you learnt how to sign this song?



Signing is an excellent way for everyone to join in with some singing. Dr Paul Whittaker OBE has created a video so that everyone can learn how to sign this song- have you tried it?



**Generously supported by**



**Garfield Weston**  
FOUNDATION

The Sackler Trust and  
Scops Arts Trust

**[fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk](http://fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk)**

**[brittenpearsarts.org](http://brittenpearsarts.org)**

Britten Pears Arts is a registered charity No. 261383 and company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 980281. VAT Registration No. 927 3330 30.  
Registered office: Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Snape, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1SP.