

Ruta Vitkauskaite

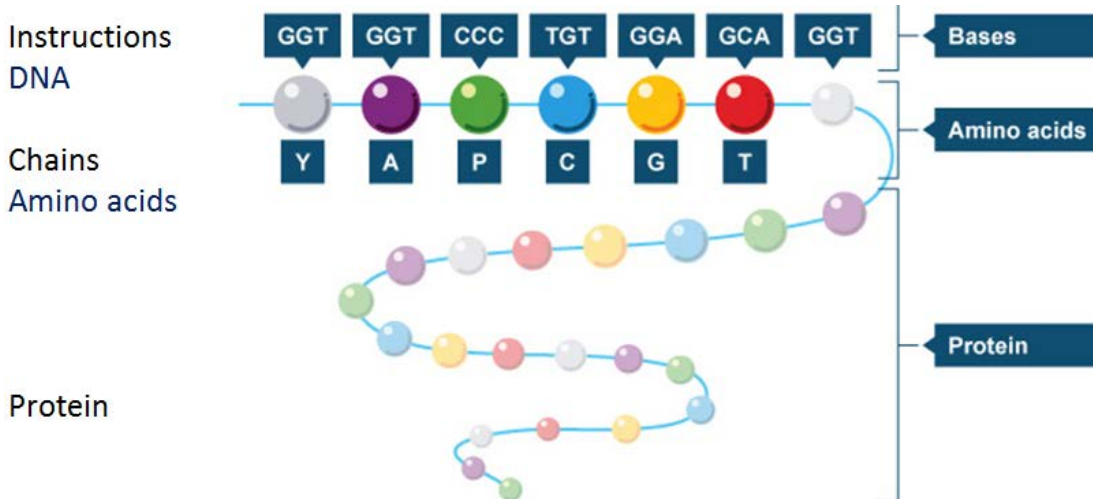
Fairies and Elephants

for flexible ensemble

2013

Fairies and Elephants

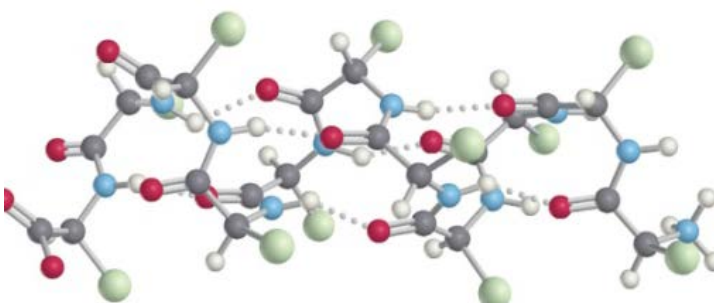
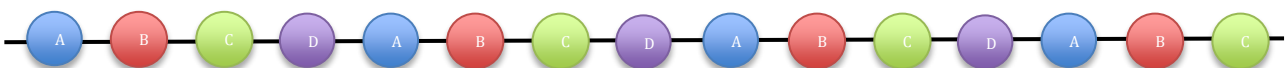
Fairies and Elephants is inspired by the **process of protein creation**. The score of the piece is inspired by a scientific image showing how a protein is created (see below). The form of the piece and the order of musical elements, imitates the scientific process of protein creation. Proteins are made by chains of amino acids. These chains are made by genes/DNA, which act like a set of instructions to tell cells which proteins to make:



Translation into music:

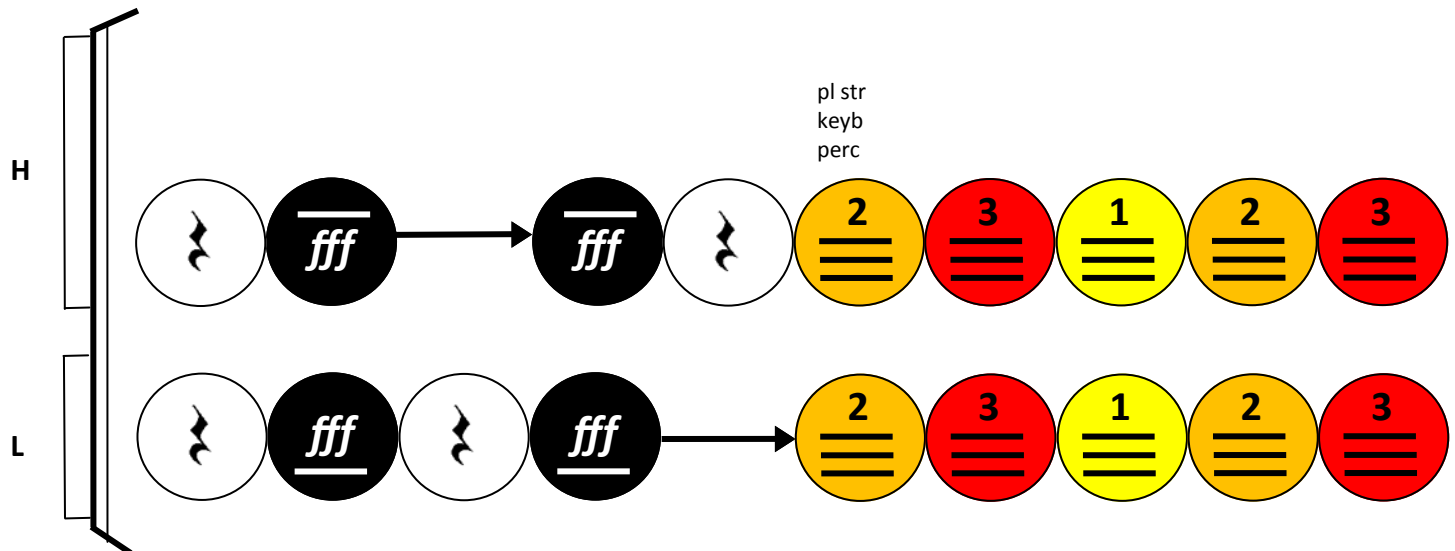
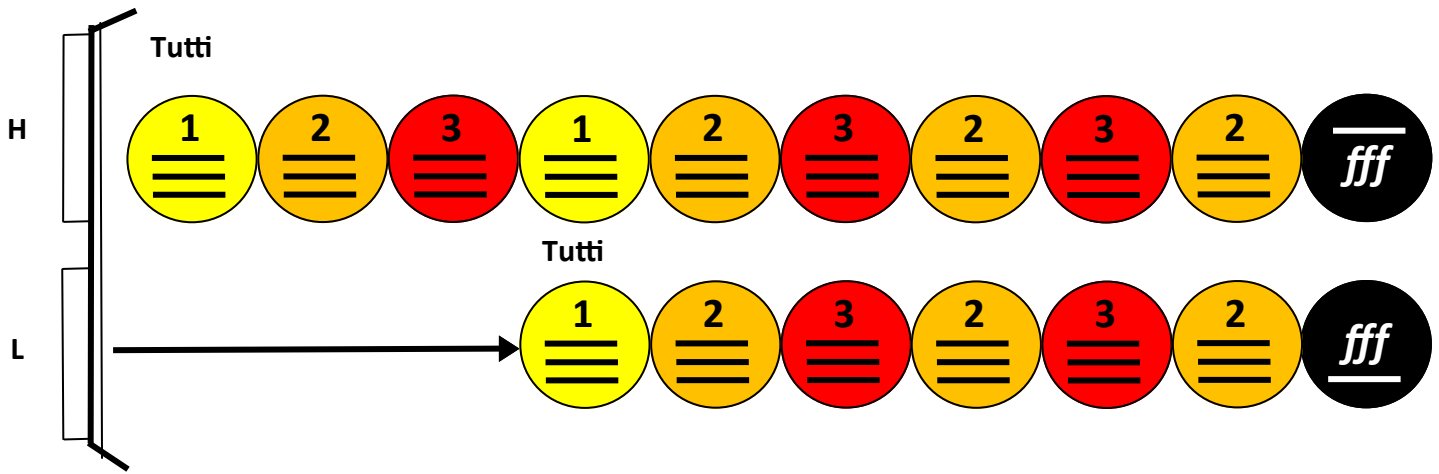
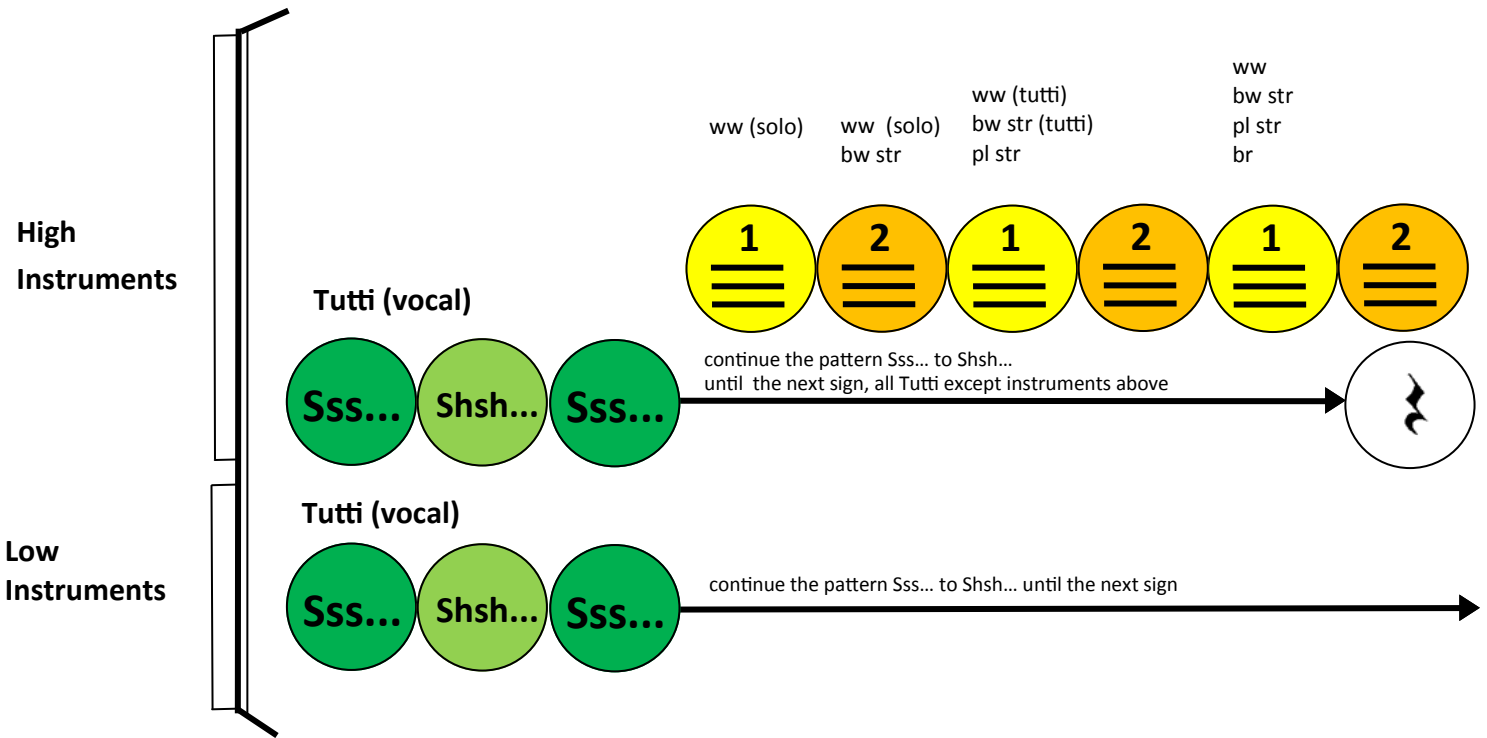
	Musical function	Scientific function
DNA	Conductor	DNA send instructions to Cells
Cells	Performers	Cells create Protein from Amino Acids based on instructions from DNA
Proteins	A chain of musical ideas – a structure we see as the full score.	Chains of Amino Acids. (In the scientific diagram it is chain of coloured circles connected with black line)
Amino Acids	Different musical ideas. (Each different idea is in different coloured circle in the score.)	There are over 500 types of amino acids known, each of them consist of some specific elements which belong only to some certain type. (In the scientific diagram each coloured circle is different amino acid – the same colour means same type of amino acid).
Peptide bond	Repetition of musical ideas to produce textural material. (It is marked as black line in the score)	Connection between amino acids. (In the scientific diagram it is shown as a black line).

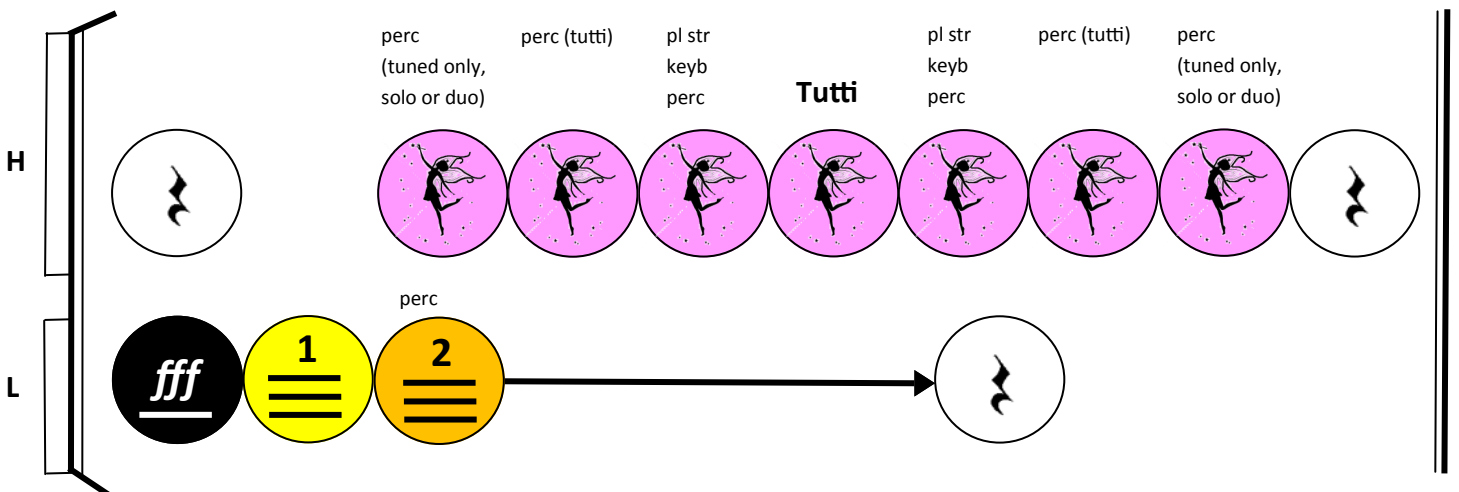
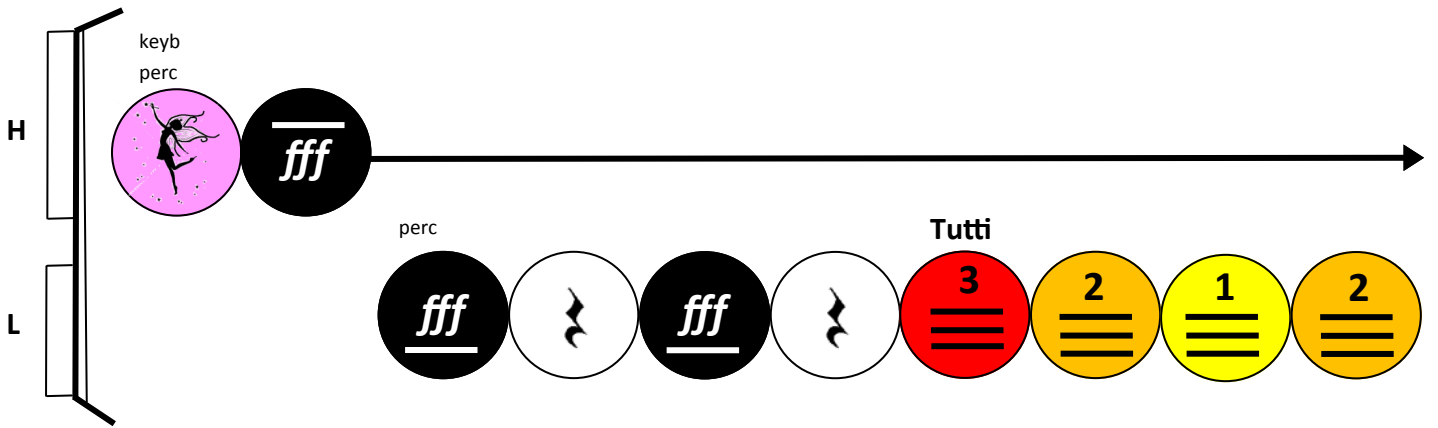
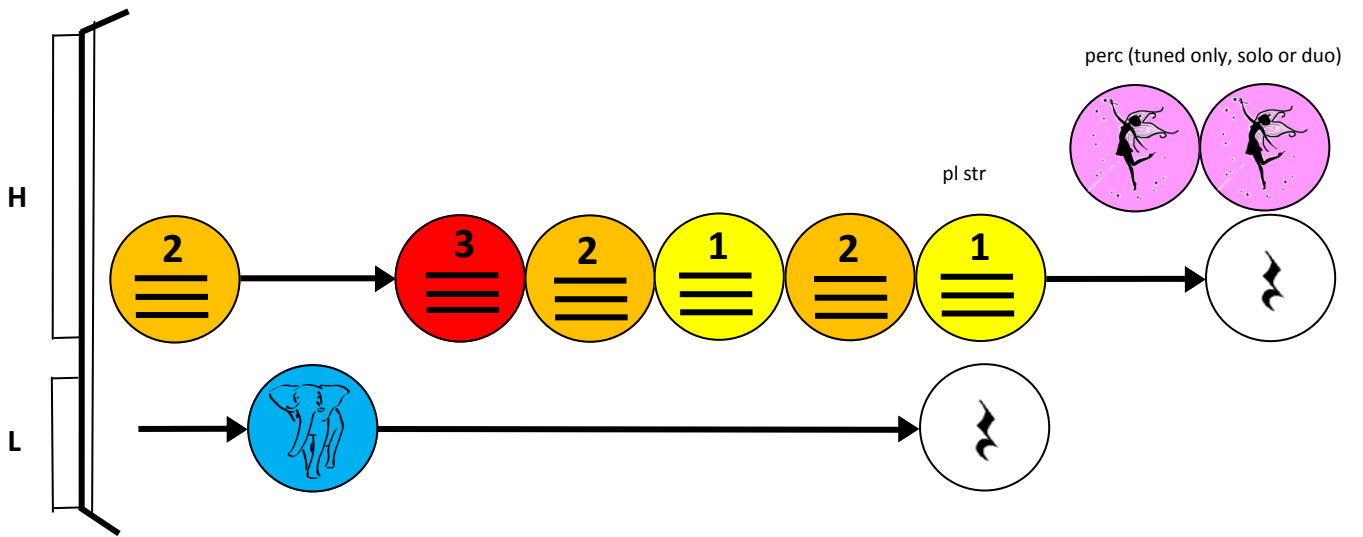
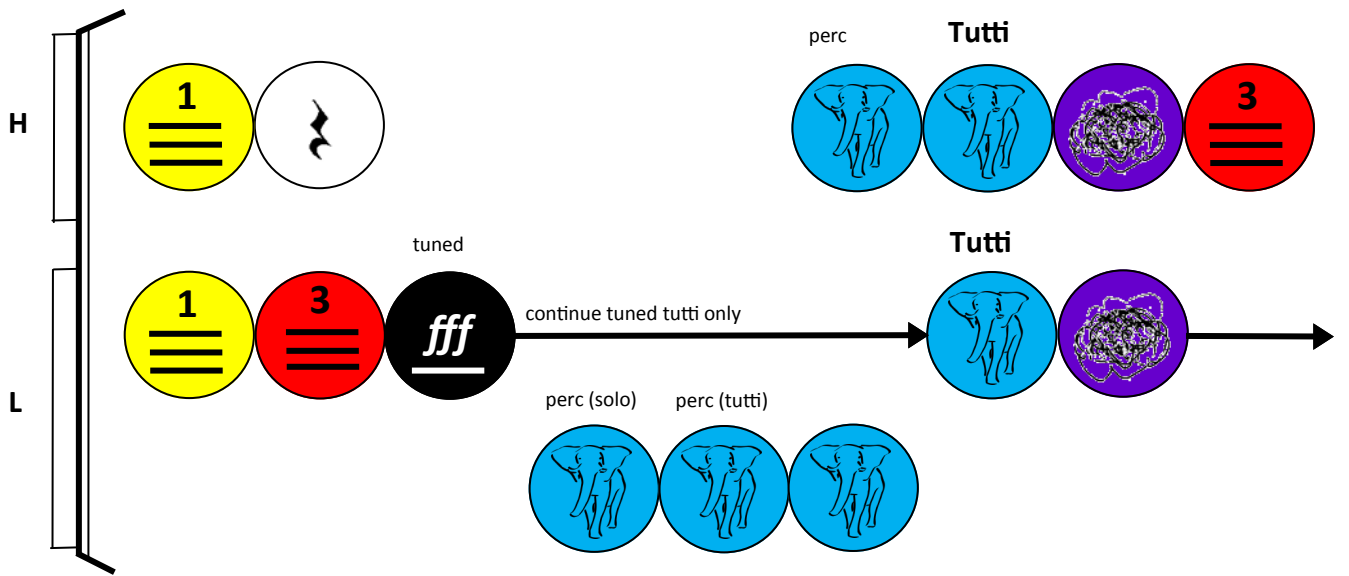
In the music, DNA (the conductor) gives orders to the Cells (the performers) which particular Protein (piece structure) to make. Proteins are made from different Amino Acids (short musical ideas represented by coloured circles). These are connected into chains by Peptide bonds (the repetition of a musical idea as represented by the black lines). A simplified version of the composition could look like a Protein made from one sequence of Amino Acids:












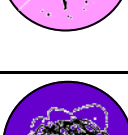
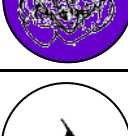
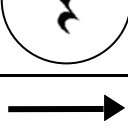
During the process of composing the piece, the structure (represented by the protein) moved away from a simple sequence of musical ideas and fell into a more complex form (see score). This is replicated in reality when protein molecules fall into complex structures like the Keratin Protein on the left.

Fairies and Elephants





EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS, INVENTION & REHEARSAL MUSIC

Symbol	Sounds	How to rehearse and invent it
	Continuous whisper on sound 's'.	Whisper 'Sss...'. Quiet and gentle sound. Start one by one until all the group whispers together.
	Continuous whisper on 'sh'.	All the group together whisper 'sh...'. Quiet and gentle sound.
	High long chord (1) played on all instruments.	Each individual member of the group picks a high pitch to play a long note on. It can be any note in the high register of their instrument. This creates <i>Chord 1</i> when played all together. Each individual needs to remember his or her <i>Chord 1</i> note only.
	Middle register long chord (2) played on all instruments.	Each individual member of the group picks a middle register pitch to play a long note on. It can be any note in the middle register of their instrument. This creates <i>Chord 2</i> when played all together. Each individual needs to remember his or her <i>Chord 2</i> note only.
	Low register long chord (2) played on all instruments.	Each individual member of the group picks a low pitch to play a long note on. It can be any note in the low register of their instrument. This creates <i>Chord 3</i> when played all together. Each individual needs to remember his or her <i>Chord 3</i> note only.
	Very loud long high sound.	The instruments from <i>High Instruments Group</i> play their highest possible sound as loud as they can together as a long note. Breath when necessary and restart note.
	Very loud long low sound.	The instruments from <i>Low Instruments Group</i> play their lowest possible sound as loud as they can together as a long note. Breath when necessary and restart note.
	<i>Elephant theme.</i> Repetitive rhythmic pattern. Heavy and not too fast, like an elephant's walk.	The untuned percussion from the <i>Low Instruments Group</i> invent a rhythmic pattern which they repeat over and over as an ostinato. Other instruments from the <i>Whole Group</i> join in one by one, playing same rhythm, but on different notes. Each person should pick their own notes, but try to listen to each other to create a nice harmony.
	<i>Fairy theme.</i> Repetitive soft and gentle texture in the high register.	One or two people from the tuned percussion in the <i>High Instruments Group</i> invent a <i>Fairy theme</i> – a short melody in the high register. They should keep repeating this idea over and over. Other players from the plucked strings and keyboards in the <i>High Instruments Group</i> join in one by one, adding their own similar melodies to support the first melody and create a texture.
	<i>Messy theme.</i> Loud and messy sound	Each individual member of the <i>Whole Group</i> chooses a very noisy sound e.g. a trill/tremolo or a quick passage to play on his/her instrument. Play these all together, fast and noisy!!!
	Silence	A pause (rest).
	Black line with arrow at the end	Continue to play musical idea until told to stop or to play the next idea.