



In the house...

Listen to *Living Room Music* by composer John Cage – You can watch a video of Square Peg Round Hole performing here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soHjrfr1Yvw&feature=emb_logo

The first and last movements of the piece are played on household objects, such as magazines, a table, books, the floor or bits of the house such as window frames or a door.

LIVING ROOM MUSIC
To Begin JOHN CAGE

The score consists of four staves, one for each player. The time signature is 4/4. The music is composed of rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *f*, *cresc.*, and *dim.*. Tempo markings include *poco* and *a*. There are also some performance instructions like *etc.* and *f* with a fermata over a five-measure rest.

Above is the score. Each of the four '**Players**' can choose what household object to use. This means that each performance is different.

There are **4 beats in each bar**. In the first and second bar these are broken down into **8 quavers (half a beat)**. In this activity you will create music for 2-4 people using rhythmic patterns of 8 beats.

For more pieces of music that use **interesting objects** go to:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/music/articles/c127c7d1-a459-4f82-8c2d-38e27b940b72>
to read a BBC article about *10 of the weirdest things used to create great music*.

Your turn!

You are going to create music for your **family** to perform! The idea is to play your music sitting **around a table** or in the **living room**. Go around your house and find **objects** that make **interesting** sounds - be sure to ask your parents! **Choose** your best sounds - 1 for each family member participating.



Using the **blank scores** that you can **download** from the website, write the name of each person playing your piece at the beginning of each row. Each row is a different Player and each column a beat. Using counters, seeds or coins create a **pattern of 8 beats** for each Player. **Practice** playing your music **together**, making sure you keep a **steady beat**. At first, it will help to count to 8 **out loud** to keep you together. Try playing it at **different speeds**. It's trickier than you think!

When you are happy with the pattern you have created, **mark the pattern** on the score with pen or pencil or fill in the word doc and print it out. Now create a **second pattern** on the second sheet and so on (print as many as you need). **Put together** your patterns to create a **final piece**. You can repeat patterns with or without everybody playing. Try with different objects. In the photo above, you can see that sometimes I've asked the Player to **play twice** on a beat by putting 2 beans in the box.

Record your music and **send** it to learning@bcmg.org.uk