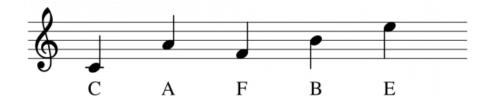# Code

Composers sometimes create melodies using code. This is called a musical cryptogram. In this activity you will create a melody using a code. Here is a musical code: on the top line are the note names A, B, C, D, E, F, G. All the letters in the same column take the note from the first row e.g. W = the note B and S = the note E.  Many composers that have used musical cryptograms include: Pierre Boulez in *Dérive1* and Bach in the *Art of Fugue*.

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | I | J | K | L | M | N |
| O | P | Q | R | S | T | U |
| V | W | X | Y | Z |   |   |

# Your Turn!

Turn your name or a friend or family member's name into a musical cryptogram using the code.



C   A   F   B   E

Here is an example using the name Jamie: J becomes C, A is A, M becomes F, I becomes B and E is E.

Play your name on a musical instrument. You can use this melody to create a more interesting piece of music by using these ideas:

- Use crotchets, quavers and minims to add rhythm to your melody. Notate your idea if you'd like to.
- Find a way to play the melody the describes the person whose name you used to make the code.
- Write you name in Morse Code which you can find on the internet. Play each note with the rhythm of the Morse Code. Dot = short note, line = long note.
- Divide your Musical Cryptogram into 2 or 3 bits/sections. Play around finding different ways of playing the little bits. Organise the original idea and little bits into a longer piece. You can use each bit/section as many times as you like.
- Add some dynamics (loud and soft, crescendos, diminuendos).
- Add some interesting articulation - staccato, accent, slur or playing techniques - pluck, bow, trill, growl.

PLEASE SEND YOUR MUSIC TO learning@bcmg.org.uk.