

Superheroes

Music is very important in superhero movies and cartoons. Often there is a melody or musical idea that is associated with the main character. Some famous ones are listed below. Take a listen using Youtube, Spotify or another music platform.

- Superman
- Wonder woman
- Batman
- Black Lightening

The idea of having a melody to describe a particular character was first used by the French composer Hector Berlioz in *Symphonie Fantastique*, composed in 1830. In this case, the composer imagines a young musician in love and the melody represents the woman he was in love with. The theme appears throughout the four movements.

Here is a performance of it by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mariss Jansons at the BBC Proms <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK6iAxe0oEc> .

Your turn!

Design a superhero and give them a name. Superheroes tend to have names that include animals, insects and weather as well as descriptive words. Batman, Spiderman, Black Lightening, Wonder Woman, Superman....

- What is their superpower?
- What do they look like?
- How do they move?
- Where do they live?

Think about how your superhero might move. Become your superhero and move around the room - what sort of rhythms or shapes does your moving make? Can you make sounds on an instrument to match the movements you make? This could be:

1. A melody, A good idea when making a melody is to limit yourself to using a small number of notes - ones you feel confident playing.
2. A rhythmic pattern
3. A sound effect (the superpower sound)

Once you have found some ideas you like, organise them in an order to make a longer piece. Try different ways of doing this before deciding on your final composition.

Please send any music you create to learning@bcmg.org.uk