

The 16th Elmbridge Literary Competition



34

39 *Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,*

44 *flight to the imagination and life to everything.*

The image shows a piano score with three systems of music. The first system (measures 34-38) features a treble and bass clef with a melody in the treble and accompaniment in the bass. The second system (measures 39-43) includes the lyrics 'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,' with a treble clef and a bass line. The third system (measures 44-48) includes the lyrics 'flight to the imagination and life to everything.' with a treble clef and a bass line.

MUSIC

Winning, Highly Commended &
Commended
Entries

5-7 Year Old Little Rhymes & Short
Stories

The 16th Elmbridge Literary Competition 2021

MUSIC

*We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams...*

“Music is the art which is most nigh to tears and memory.” Oscar Wilde on how a song can roll back the years and take you to a forgotten place with friends long gone.

Literature and music have always gone hand in hand. Poets and authors, from Shelley To Shakespeare and Keats to Austen have woven it as themes through their works. 2021 is the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Albert Hall, a venue which has seen every style of music performed beneath its iconic dome. To celebrate this, the 16th Elmbridge Literary Competition was looking for poems and short stories that take music as their inspiration.

Following the success of 2020's 'New World', The Elmbridge Literary Competition was once more open to national and international submissions. Run in partnership between The R C Sherriff Trust and Elmbridge Borough Council, it was open to all ages.

2005:	Cook Up A Story
2006:	On My Way
2007:	A Life In Colour
2008:	Once Upon A Time
2009:	A Symphony of Life
2010:	The Elmbridge 100
2011:	Breaking The Barrier
2012:	A Dickens of A Christmas
2013:	One Act Radio Play
2014:	Dear Diary
2015:	Flights of Fantasy
2016:	Love
2017:	Luck
2018:	A Shiver Down The Spine/Things That Go Bump In The Night
2019/20:	New World

Category: Short Stories

1st Place: Love Notes – by Olivia De Villiers

Here's a cheery rhyme about a fellow, round and fat
His name was Mr Crotchet, he was feeling rather flat
He met lovely Miss Quaver as she waltzed along the boards
She skipped and balanced on the lines and darted through the chords.

Mr. Crotchet, sharp and keen, was eager to propose
He sang a simple Aria and gave her one red rose
"Oh will you be my bride and we will live in harmony?"
"No sorry," sang Miss Quaver "for you're twice as big as me!"

"Oh, I can dance a lively Jig and slide right down a scale
We can play duets together, 'til the moon turns pale
The Orchestra will be our home, without us they can't play
Please marry me Miss Quaver. Blow the Trumpets! Make my day!"

The ending of this story is as happy as can be
Crotchet married Quaver, she had Semi-Quavers three!
So open up your music books and choose a piece to play
You'll hear these notes make magic sounds and twinkle on their way.

2nd Place: Fox Fantasia – by Esme Blue

music notes lope soft and low through my ears,
yet what is it I hear?
foxes' fox-paws padding in deep blank snow,
early as larks,
foxes whose whiskers twitch with a tinkle of rising mists
bringing this music to me, fearless
as breath, wary as prey,
enchancing me,
showering me in a peace
between us
and birds, us and fields, us and woods, us and words, us and sounds
that surround us
in a music that drifts with dawn winds and dank dusks,
never ending.
Inhaling its own music,
I flutter with joy
above this deep place.

3rd Place: My Hamster Plays the Piano – by Mya Clow-Wilson

My Hamster plays the piano,
He plays it every night,
He plays to the sparkling moon,
As the moon shines very bright.

A Hare with big ears,
Crept over to the door,
And said "please little hamster,
Wont you play some more."

A Ruby Red Fox heard all the fuss,
And thought "I must go to that tune",
He whispered to his mummy fox,
"I will be back very soon."

The Hamster, Hare and the Fox,
All danced round the fire,
The music brought them together,
And this poem was written by Mya!

Highly Commended: Beautiful Harmony – by Arina D'Souza

Music makes people dance,
To its beats of trance.
Music is so groovy to move up and above,
It makes you fall in love.
Music is lots of fun,
You'll be sad when there isn't one.
You can play music with lots of friends,
Where the fun never ends.
Music can be made from anything you find,
All you need is some cheer and creative mind.
Guitar, Flute, Drums, Piano, Sitar to choose,
And you can play Rock and roll, Jazz and Blues.
Music is like a flying Dove, It brings kindness, peace and love.
If you play music, you'll feel very good,
Some people even make music out of wood.
Music sounds like a beautiful harmony,
Untuned instruments can also sound funny.
The thing about music is that you don't need a test,
Because music is the best.

Highly Commended: Music Brings The Family Together – by Arina D’Souza

Emma and her family are tired doing nothing, so they are sitting down on the floor leaning on the couch. Suddenly, Emma’s dad has an idea. He says, "Let's watch TV!", "Ok" says the whole family happily. Emma grabs the remote from the couch and switches on the TV. She flicks from channel to channel because there is nothing interesting to watch. So, they give up on TV.

Then Emma’s mum has an idea. She excitedly says, "Let’s bake something!" So, they run to the kitchen and Emma’s mum pulls the drawer to get her cooking book. She holds the cooking book and sees a lot of recipes they can bake like a Chocolate cake or a Strawberry ice cream. They finally choose watermelon milkshake, but the only thing was that they didn’t have watermelon, so they give up on that.

Now, Emma has an idea! She says, "Why don’t we make music?" The whole family is confused. "But how? We don’t have any musical instruments?" Emma says, "Get me a balloon, a tin can, some colourful tape and some stickers." So, they run around the house and get all the stuff.

Emma is now at the table with all the stuff in her hands. She cuts the balloon and places the balloon on the opening of the tin can. After that she grabs the colourful tape and sticks it on the tin can and balloon. For the final touch, she adds the stickers. Then she grabs some wooden spoons and bangs it on the tin can and says "See, a Drum!" The family is very surprised.

Then Emma says "Wait, I can make more! Bring me a cardboard box, some rubber bands, some Scissors and some stuff to decorate. So, the whole family disappears to get all the stuff ready. Now that they got everything, Emma cuts a hole in the cardboard box. Then she puts the rubber bands inside the hole that she cut and decorates it and pulls the rubber bands as she says "See, a guitar!" The family is surprised again.

Emma says "I know one more. Get 9 or 10 straws, some sandpaper with a design on it and a pencil that isn’t pointed. So, they all started bringing that stuff. Emma sticks the straws onto the sandpaper and runs the pencil on the straws and says "See, a xylophone!" The family is impressed and try playing and making music out of it.

The next day, Emma hears about a music competition and they enter the competition. They play their favourite song with instruments they made, and the audience loved it. Everyone clapped, and the judges stand up as they announce the winner. The winner is Emma and her family for being creative and making music from their craft. Emma and her family get to see Lia Mackenze and her band, one of the best bands in town. All thanks to Emma’s creative mind in search of music.

Highly Commended: Music! Music! – by Aeden Mahadeo

Music, music is everything to my ears,
It sometimes makes me cry with tears.

Oh music! It is so lovely and soothing,
I listen to it and it gets me moving.

Music, music! I love music so much!
It makes me want to do the floss!

I listen to it in the morning,
It stops me from yawning.

I like music it's so fun!
It warms me up just like the sun.

Oh music I love you!
Even better than my new shoes.

Highly Commended: Olivia and The Violin – by Olivia Mahpud

I found a violin in the attic. I tried to play it but it sounded horrible. I tried to play it again and it sounded nice. I played it to mummy and my baby and they danced, I stopped playing the violin and they stopped dancing. Just then I realised it was a magic violin! My mummy told me to play it in my room because it would make everyone dance. I played it in the room for the whole day. When it was evening I played it secretly. In the night-time, in the middle of the night, because I couldn't sleep. The same happened every day and night. Sometimes if my family went to the toilet in the night they started dancing. I loved my violin so much because it had a wood colour and I painted it. I loved my violin but my brother loved the piano! He had piano lessons. The only problem was that if I became very good I couldn't have a concert -all the people watching would start dancing!

The END

Highly Commended: The Star Band – by Imogen Petheram

Jessica is seven years old. She is part of a band called 'The star band'. There is five in the group, all girls. Jessica plays the piano, the other group members play the flute, drums and sing in the band. They have entered a national music competition and are due to appear on television. Jessica has written a song called 'Can't stop the feeling' for the competition. They have practised lots and lots performing to their families, school class and at the whole school assembly.

On the day they were nervous and excited as their family and friends were watching in the live audience. They wore pink sparkly dresses, leggings, and high heeled shoes. There were five other groups in the competition. Their performance was very good with no mistakes. The live audience clapped and clapped when they finished. Jessica and the band were very happy. When the judges announced the winners, they had come in first place. They won a trophy and a ticket to see Jess Glynne who was their favourite popstar. As Jessica was getting into bed that night she said to her mum and dad; 'What a brilliant day!'

Highly Commended: Family Music – by Owen Ruggiero-Jansch

When I turn my music player on I dance my cool moves.
My sister Ada joins in with my music player dance and mom and dad too.
We dance on the floor, standing up dances and spin around.

I am dance.

When I play the guitar, I feel happy.
My heart explodes music.
I play Eye of the Tiger and James Bond.
I also play Twinkle, Twinkle and Old MacDonald.

I am guitar.

When I play the piano it is easier, I can see that I am on the right key all the time.
My head is full of music and songs. I play fast and slow songs.

I am piano.

When my dad plays music on his guitar, he plays songs that my grandfather who died wrote. He remembers them.
When my Poppie plays the saxophone sometimes he is quiet and sometimes he is loud.

He can play lots of music, even Twinkle, Twinkle.

This is my story.

This is my family.

We are music.

Commended: The Super Six – by Emma Anderson

Once upon a time there was a famous band called The Super Six. The beautiful playing band was a family called The Andersens. Emma, Jess, Mummy, Daddy, Olly and Coco, the rabbits. One day the news said there was a ghost haunting the Royal Albert Music Hall where they usually played. "Oh no" cried Jess "we were supposed to go there today." "Then let's go there" said Emma. "Are you nuts?" cried Olly. "Yay nuts" interrupted Coco. Olly carried on "There's a real ghost haunting in the Royal Albert Music Hall. We can't go there right now." "Of course we can" laughed Coco. "It's not like there's a magic thingy holding us back." "Yes" said Mummy. So they all rushed outside except Jess and Olly. "They are nuts" they said to each other. Coco heard them and said "Yay nuts!" So Jess and Olly went outside to catch up with them. They arrived to the Music Hall. They looked around. Then suddenly out of nowhere a shadow crept into a secret tunnel. They all followed it. The tunnel was shallow, scary and dark but luckily Daddy had a torch. Coco and Olly were really scared so Emma picked up Coco and Jess picked up Olly. "Come on we are losing him" whispered

Jess. They saw a cape flash right passed them. They came to a dead end where the ghost was. There were loads of musical instruments that he had stolen. "Time to show yourself" Coco said bravely. "Oh I don't think so" said the ghost. In a puff of smoke he turned a hidden handle and he flew out into the depths of darkness. "Well what are you waiting for. Let's catch him" said Coco. "Don't just stand there!" So they all fled after him into the deepest darkest depths. They found him. He had captured a music teacher. "Help me!" screamed the teacher. "Who are you saying help me to?" cried the ghost. "Them, behind you" said the music teacher. The ghost turned around and cried "Not you again". They had a big battle and then Coco and Olly climbed on his head when he wasn't looking and tore his cape off him. He was a beast. Everyone gasped. Coco put her paw on the beast's paw. "Why did you take all this stuff?" she asked. "Because I want to play in my own band". "Why did you take the music teacher" asked Olly. "Because the problem is I don't know how to play". "Then we'll teach you" said Emma. "Really?" said the beast. "Of course" said Jess. Mummy and Daddy said together "you can play in our band and our new name will be called The Secret Seven." In a flash of light the beast turned into a boy. "Wow this is like Beauty and the Beast" said Coco. "That's just a fake fairy tale" said Olly. "Well this is real". And they all became best friends and a family and a band.

Commended: My Favourite Things – by Adam Barstow

Early sunrises and paddle board splashing
Heavy rain storms and lightening a flashing
Sketching nature and hearing birds sing
These are a few of my favourite things

Climbing tall oaks trees and feeding the ducks
Drinking hot chocolate and reading my books
Jumping with my friends in a leaf pile
These are the things that make me smile

When we're locked down
When the museums are shut
When I can't buy Lego
I simply remember my favourite things and then I don't feel sooooo sad.

Daffodils blooming and little birds fledging
Building snowmen and downhill sledging
Playing my piano and going bike riding
Gazing at stars and messy mud sliding
These are the things that make me happy.

Commended: The Guinea Pig Jig – by Kate Jackson

At dead of night, the guinea pigs twirl
In throughout the walls of everyone's house
To dance the night away and play
They get instruments and shoes
But they have to clean up through the tunnels and the ballroom
They clean and they play beautiful music
They tip-toed and they cheered-
Well quietly
Then it was time to go
They all said bye and "Cheerio!"
And off they went, in through the tunnel and back through the yard then snuggling up in their
cosy beds.

Commended: One Dog That Can Dance – by Clementine Murphy

Get moving, get grooving, have some fun,
Dance from midnight, until the clock strikes one.
What is that, what is this, a dog dancing in the mist
Singing a marvelous song when the bells ring along.

What is that wonderful sound coming from the mysterious dog
That can dance, sing and play a log!
With a smile and a cheerful laugh,
Music makes me feel happy with a barnyard dance.

And that one dog made it through the fog
On the other side were more musical instrument than a dog could ever dream of.
I am here for change, lets all jump up and say
This is the best day of my life and we're all here to celebrate.

Commended: The Music of My Body – by Silvia Rosier

Rumble, boom, boom, exhale.
Rumble, boom, boom, exhale.
Rumble, boom, boom, exhale.

Click, tap, tap, chomp.
Click, tap, tap, chomp.
Click, tap, tap, chomp.

Shout, stomp, stomp, clap.
Shout, stomp, stomp, clap.
Shout, stomp, stomp, clap.

Pat, puff, puff, whistle.
Pat, puff, puff, whistle.
Pat, puff, puff, whistle.

Commended: My Magic Music Morning – by Isla H

When I wake up I hear
Birds tweeting
The birds beat with tweeting
Then my dog whining really loud
She pierced my ears
My loud creaky cracking bed
I eat breakfast
I can hear
I can hear drilled crunching
In the kitchen
The radio blasting with music
I'm drawing and I hear
Shshsh when I'm colouring
I brushed my teeth
Swishing with sound
I rinse my mouth out with water
Swishing sound

Commended: The Music of My Garden – by Sukhmani

As I walk slowly, peacefully out into
My long musical garden

I listen to the sweet, merry tweeting of
Happy birds.

The green, glistening grass
Swaying slowly.

Large, emerald leaves of the cherry tree
Brushing lowly.

I notice the orange, bushy squirrel rushing about
Collecting small, brown nuts.

The sound of my garden makes me feel calm.

As I walk slowly to the back of my garden,
A ripe, green apple fell with a THUD

From an apple tree.
And my neighbour digging in his vegetable patch
Busily.

The R C Sherriff Trust is an independent charitable trust, established through the terms of the Will of playwright, R C Sherriff. It has been promoting and developing the arts in the Borough of Elmbridge, for 25 years. Further details about the Trust can be found at www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk

Elmbridge Borough Council's Arts Development seeks to increase opportunities for people to engage in the arts, culture and heritage of our Borough, either individually or through partnerships, such as those with the R.C. Sherriff Trust that make Elmbridge Primary Schools Festival possible. With the aim of engaging residents, Elmbridge Borough Council's Art Development supports arts organisations and presents arts-based activities that improve the physical and mental health of people who live and work in Elmbridge.

