

Classics for Kids



Claude Debussy



Golliwog's Cakewalk

Claude Debussy
Born: August 22, 1862
Died: March 25, 1918

French composer Claude Debussy was born in a suburb of Paris. It was Claude's aunt who noticed his musical talent and arranged for his first piano lessons. When he was only ten, Debussy started studying at the very strict Paris Conservatory. From the beginning, he ran into trouble because he liked to experiment instead of practicing his piano and composition exercises. Although his teachers constantly made corrections to his work, at least one of them admitted that Debussy's work was interesting.

As a child, Debussy was fascinated by visual art, and as he grew up, he loved the new style called "Impressionism." Instead of painting realistic, lifelike paintings with hard outlines, Impressionists used thousands of dots or many different shades of color to create the "impression" of what they wanted to depict. Debussy took that idea and applied it to music, creating Impressionism in music.

One of Debussy's most famous works is *La Mer* (French for "the sea") a musical depiction of the ocean. And, although he spent only a brief time in Spain, he wrote a wonderful musical portrait of this country—Iberia.

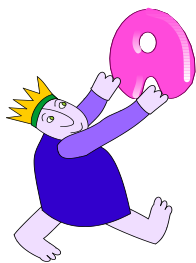
Daddy's Little Girl

Golliwog's Cakewalk is one of six movements from Debussy's *Children's Corner Suite*. He dedicated the suite to his daughter Emma (also known as Chou-Chou, a French term of endearment that also means "darling"). Debussy used English for the title of each movement because Emma's governess was English. A "golliwog" is a type of English doll, and the "cakewalk" is a dance that was popular in the music halls of the 1890's.

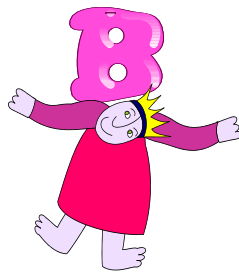
"Golliwog's Cakewalk" from the Children's Corner Suite



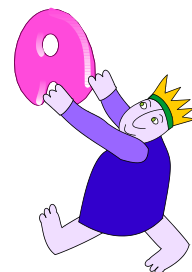
Introduction
Get ready to have some fun!



The A theme bounces us around in a lively dance between loud and soft.



The B theme takes over with a slower, calmer melody.

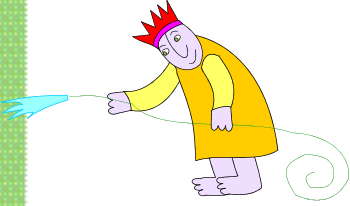


The A theme returns to dance us around the floor once more. Listen for the final flourish!

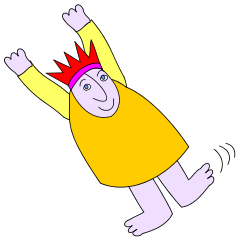
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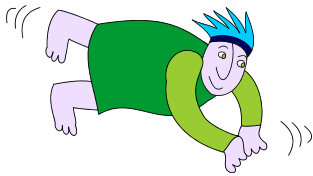
You Choose

The dolls below are doing *something*. Describe what each is doing. Choose an instrument that you would use to tell the story and describe how it would sound.





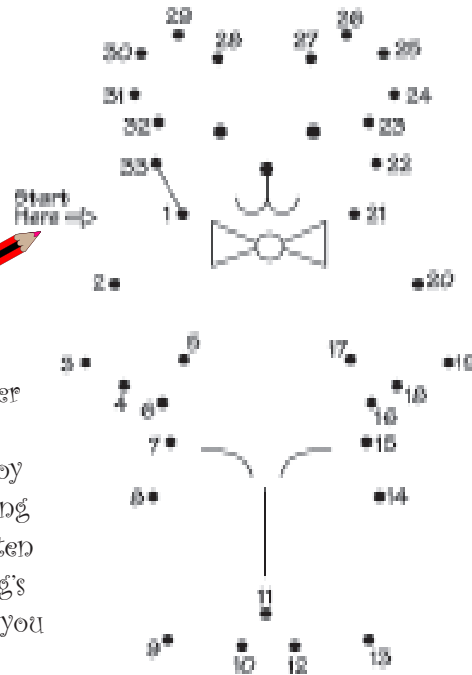






Piano Facts

- * The **world's largest piano** is a Challen concert grand. This instrument is 11 feet long, has a total string tension of over 30 tons and weighs more than a ton!
- * The first note on a standard 88 note keyboard is A.
- * The average medium size piano has about **230 strings**, each string having about **165 pounds of tension**, with the combined pull of all strings equaling approximately **eighteen tons!**
- * There are over **10 MILLION** pianos in American homes, businesses, and institutions.



Find another favorite children's toy by connecting the dots. Listen to "Golliwog's Cakewalk" as you draw.

Here's your chance to create your own piece of art for "Golliwog's Cakewalk."

Draw or write your own story about one or more of this month's musical selections.

Use a blank 8 1/2" x 11" paper.

We could choose your story/picture to feature in this space.

Send yours to:

Classics for Kids
1223 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45214

Or E-mail us at mail@classicsforkids.com.

