



strings, brass  
listening, culture, instruments, movement

# Flight of the Bumblebee

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Tell the magical story of the opera, or simply enjoy moving to the busy bee in this orchestral music.



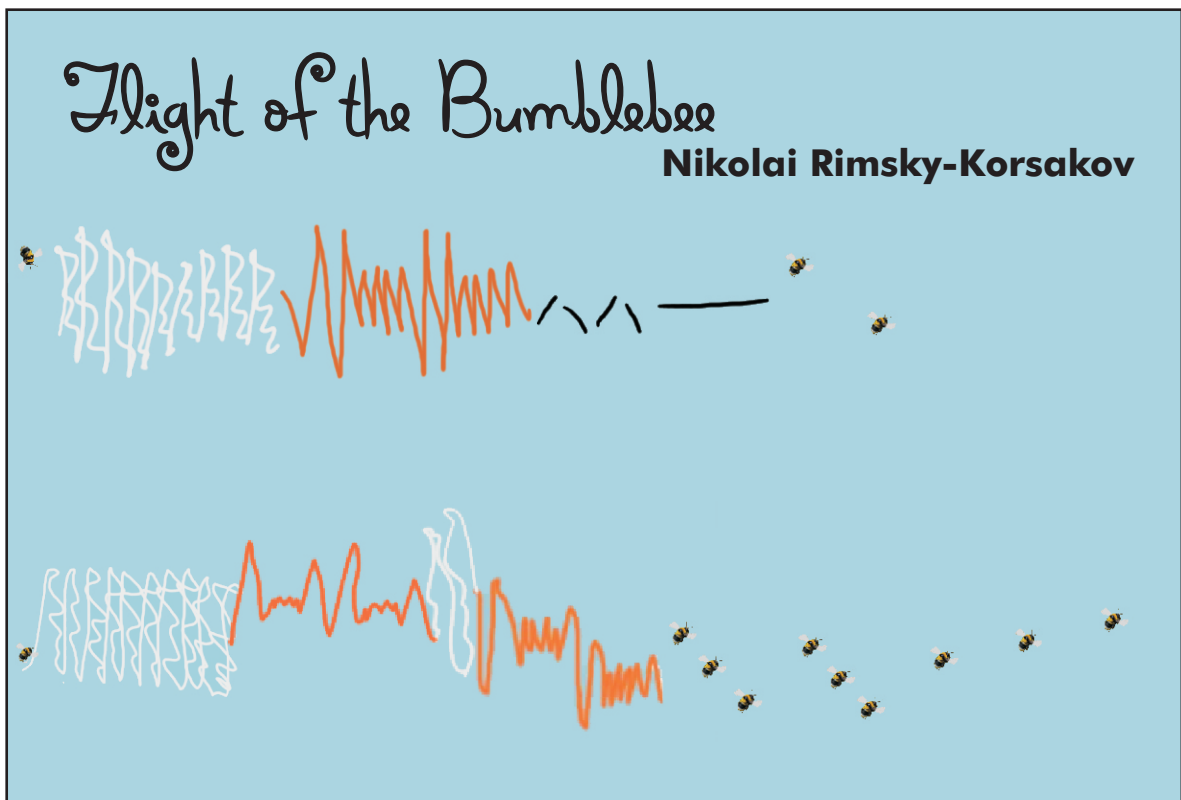
# Flight of the Bumblebee

part of an opera by  
**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

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# Flight of the Bumblebee

**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**



# Music that tells a Story: Flight of the Bumblebee

## Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Gather students back together in the meeting area.

**Intro** "Peter and the Wolf --you remember Peter, yes? was a musical story, a symphony. Today we're going to hear part of another musical story about Tsars/kings and palaces and magic. It was written by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. When Rimsky-Korsakov lived in Russia, they didn't have kings --they had Tsars. The story he wrote has a powerful Tsar in it, and princesses and magic.

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov was born in 1844 and lived in Russia. He left a career in the navy to follow his love of music. Even though he hadn't had much formal music training, he took up a post at St. Petersburg Conservatory where he had to study hard to keep ahead of his students. Throughout his life he wrote operas, chamber music and choral pieces.

**Rimsky-Korsakov was very good at using instruments to help paint pictures of what was happening in the story. Before we get to the music, though, you need to know what was happening in the story, so get yourself comfortable ... put your story hat on ... open your imagination to see and hear that ...**

Read or tell the first part of the story ...

Militrissa  
and  
The Tsar

jealous  
sisters

baby born  
lie told

Militrissa  
and baby  
on island

baby grows up  
now Prince  
falls in love  
with  
magic princess

Prince wants  
to visit the Tsar!

Once upon a time there was a woman named Militrissa. She was as kind as she was beautiful. When the Tsar saw her, he fell in love and they were married. When Militrissa moved into the palace, she not only brought her dresses and shoes, her musical instruments, paints and her pet elephant, but also her two sisters to keep her company ---which maybe wasn't such a good idea because they were jealous of Militrissa.

Time passed. The Tsar and Militrissa were very happy. While the Tsar was away fighting a war, Militrissa gave birth to a son. Her sisters sent a message to the Tsar saying that the baby was a monster. The Tsar ordered that the mother and baby be thrown out to sea in a barrel.

The barrel bobbed up and down on the waves and eventually came ashore on the island of Bujan. The baby, who was no monster, grew up to be a handsome prince. This same prince fell in love with the Swan Princess who lived on the island. She had magical powers.

The Prince began to think about his own father who ruled so far away. He wanted to see his father and find out what kind of a man could throw his wife and baby into the sea. The Swan Princess offered to help her Prince visit the Tsar secretly. She used her magic to turn the Prince into ...

**"What is she going to turn the Prince into? Listen to Korsakov's music and try to imagine what the Prince became!"**



Play Music

### The Flight of the Bumblebee

mp3 or mp4 without projection light on

**"What do you think the Prince became?"**

(take several guesses, if necessary give a few hints)

**Is the bumblebee music slow or fast?**

**loud or soft?**

**legato or staccato?**

**Where is the bumblebee going to go?** (to visit the Tsar)

**Yes, to the Tsar's palace.**

Continue reading/telling the story.

The bumblebee flew and flew until it arrived at the Tsar's palace.

As so often happens in our lives, by some strange co-incidence, the Tsar, at the palace, was in the midst of packing for the trip to visit the island of Bujan. Every time the Tsar put something in his suitcase, one of the jealous sisters pulled it out again trying to stop the visit from taking place. They didn't want the Tsar to leave!

In his disguise as a bumblebee, the Prince buzzed furiously around his wicked aunts and stung each sister in turn. He chased them from the room.

**"We're going to listen to the bumblebee music again. When you think the bee is stinging the wicked sisters, raise your hand."**



Play Music

### The Flight of the Bumblebee

After the Bee-Prince chased the sisters from the palace, he flew home in time to greet his father the Tsar when he arrived. And then, well, can you guess how it ends?

The Tsar was reunited with Militrissa.  
The Prince married his Swan Princess.

And they all lived happily ever after.

The mp4 shows a music map being made as the piece is played. If time allows, watch the mp4, then either have students follow the music map with a pointing finger.

**New Repertoire**



The Flight of the Bumblebees

Lesson Plan for 30 a ends here..

CanDo Music 1

April 216

Lesley J Glare

## Dance(A) & Drama(B) Music(C)

If you regularly have two music times a week, you may want to begin today with composition presentations.

### Warm-Ups(3 minutes)

Body: Making Faces

### Practice and Review

Songs: any of the "bug" repertoire

### Music & Movement/Dance

a favourite dance from the repertoire  
OR "be the bee" as Flight of the Bumblebee plays

### Optional Ideas

**A** Composition Presentations

**B** Counting Out Chants  
Bee Bee Bumblebee

**C** Song  
I'm Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee

**A** Look ahead to Lesson 31 to find an outline for composition presentations. The first few presentations will take longer as students become familiar with the process. Accomodate the extra time needed by planning only 2 or 3 presentations today.

**B** 1 Adapt the introduction to your own experience, either as a child or as a teacher supervising the schoolyard.

**"When we had recess we used to play games that needed somebody to be "it". The "it" person was picked by using a rhyme. My favourite was One potato, two potato ... Does anyone know that one here? No/yes ---how do you decide who to pick to be "it"?"**

Give students an opportunity to do any counting out chants that they know.

**2** Teach the Bumble Bee chant words. Clap as you teach the words to emphasize the beat, as the beat is used for counting out.

**3** Use the chant as a game in itself. All students form a circle. The teacher is the first bumblebee. As everyone says the rhyme, the teacher goes around tapping each person on the knee or nose. The person counted "out" is the next bee in the centre of the circle.

Bee Bee, Bumble Bee,  
Stung a man upon his knee,  
Stung a pig upon his snout,  
Goodness me if you're not out.

A traditional schoolyard way of "counting out" to eliminate people.

Counting out may be done in many ways using rhymes.

Players sit/stand in a circle. (larger groups)The "counting person" goes around the outside of the circle lightly tapping the back of each student until the word "out" --this person steps out and the chant is done again. OR (small groups)Players stand in a circle with their hand/hands stretched out into the middle of the circle. The "counting person" taps each hand etc.

# I'm Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee

Key G, first note low so(D)  
 a cappella count-in: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 I'm

traditional  
 arr: LJ Clare



I'm bringing home my ba-by bum-ble-bee, Won't my mom-my be so proud of me, I'm



bring-ing home my ba - by bum - ble - bee, Oo! Ee! It stung me!

Children relish the messiness of these traditional words.

If you prefer an ecologically responsible version you could try these words.

I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee  
 won't my mommy be so proud of me  
 I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee  
 Ooo, ee, it stung me!

I'm squishing up my baby bumblebee,  
 Won't my mommy be so proud of me!  
 I'm squishing up my baby bumblebee,  
 Oo! Ee! It's all over me!

I'm licking up my baby bumblebee,  
 Won't my mommy be so proud of me!  
 I'm licking up my baby bumblebee.  
 Oo! Ee! It's inside of me!

I'm bringing up my baby bumble bee  
 Won't my mommy be so proud of me  
 I'm bring up my baby bumble bee.  
 Oo! Ee! It's all over me again.

I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee  
 Won't my mommy be so proud of me  
 I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee  
 Oo! Ee! Mommy clean me!

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I'm looking for a baby bumblebee  
 Won't my Mommy be so proud of me  
 I'm looking for a baby bumblebee  
 Oo Ee I found one!

I'm following the baby bumblebee  
 While it flies around a great big tree  
 I'm following the baby bumblebee  
 Oo Ee It landed!

I'm watching while the baby bumblebee  
 Rubs its bum in the flowers that I see  
 I'm watching while the baby bumblebee  
 Oo Ee It's leaving.

Off it buzzed that baby bumblebee  
 Flying fast and flying free  
 Off it buzzed that baby bumblebee  
 Oo Ee Away it goes

I'm hoping that the baby bumblebee  
 Helps to make some honey just for me  
 I'm hoping that the baby bumblebee  
 Yum, yum, honey and toast for me!!!

Many students will know this song from kindergarten. Enjoy singing the traditional words with your class. Then, post words to the "ecological" version and challenge students to sing the new words by sight-reading them.

In discussion with students explore ideas around changing words in songs:

e.g. Which version do students prefer? Why?

(I wassail between liking the silliness of the traditional words,  
 and the important message for today of the new ones.)

Lesson Plan for 30 ends here..