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Camille Saint-Saëns
The cuckoo in the deep forest
from Le Carnaval des animaux, 1921

Example of active music listening

Intention of the online example :

Most children enjoy drawing. You can also draw or paint to music. Especially when the music sets such clear tasks, as in this piece about the cuckoo. You have to concentrate if you really want to catch every cuckoo call, because sometimes it is very close, sometimes far away and quiet, sometimes it is a young cuckoo with a high voice, then again an older one with a darker voice.

This example is suitable for a child to do it alone, maybe with a sibling or a parent. But of course it can also be used in an online music lesson for a class. It needs and causes concentration on the music, and presumably the picture will be completed and decorated after the end of the music, the better !

Task definition:

Before the music begins, a tree is drawn or painted on a large piece of paper.

German: <https://youtu.be/62GTrTnaVug>
English: https://youtu.be/Eh-e_0ewizg

As soon as the music starts, attention should be paid to when and how the cuckoo call sounds. When you hear it, a cuckoo's beak is quickly drawn into the tree.

Before you listen to the piece for the second time, you can talk about the children's impressions. By the way, why does the cuckoo sound so sad?

When listening to the piece repeatedly, different additional tasks can be set, for example:

- Depending on the dynamics of the call, the beak is drawn larger or smaller.
- Instead of drawing, you can also point to a cuckoo's beak at each acoustic signal.

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