

Santa Rosa Symphony

Elementary School Listening Program Sample Script:

Composer: Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) CD3 TRK 4

Composition: Simple Symphony Time: 3:17
2. Playful Pizzicato

Recording: NAXOS 8.550979

Day 1: This week's feature composer is Benjamin Britten.
The feature composition is the second movement from the Simple Symphony.
Britten was composing melodies and themes before he was 12 years old. By
The time he was 20, he had composed this Playful Pizzicato, a movement of his Simple
Symphony. Britten knew that by having the players pluck the strings, *pizzicato*, his
music would sound light, bouncy and playful.

Day 2: This week's feature composer is Benjamin Britten.
The feature composition is the second movement from the Simple Symphony.
Britten created a bouncy, happy mood in two ways. Plucking the strings, *pizzicato*, was
his first idea. But Britten was even more creative with the melody. He invented *motives*
that were short and had the shape of a wave. He repeated them again and again.
Perhaps he was thinking of how it feels to chuckle at a good joke, or giggle at a funny
cartoon.

Day 3: This week's feature composer is Benjamin Britten.
The feature composition is the second movement from the Simple Symphony. Britten
wanted to make his music sound and feel playful, like musical chuckling. He combined
pizzicato, plucking, with short wave-like melodies. Britten arranged these melodies in
two large sections. He designed the second section to be played a little slower; it is
introduced by strong strumming.

Day 4: This week's feature composer is Benjamin Britten.
The feature composition is the second movement from the Simple Symphony.
Britten used *pizzicato* and short wave-like melodies to create light, bouncy, playful
music. He arranged these melodies in large sections--- the first was fast, the second a
little slower. It is almost as if Britten had discovered a musical way to describe the
difference between a giggle and a chuckle.

Day 5: This week's feature composer is Benjamin Britten.
The feature composition is the second movement from the Simple Symphony.
Can you think of the name of the composer? (pause) Did you remember Benjamin
Britten? That's correct. Britten composed his music to put us in a playful mood. He
knew how to use the stringed instruments in an amusing way. Britten invented musical
laughter- short, wave shaped melodies played *pizzicato*.