

# Seaford Music Society

Presents

## CLOUDLAND!

**Meera Maharaj** flute & **Sarah Gait** cello

### Meet the instruments

Spot how many different ways we can make sounds with our instruments.  
(Check the Fact Files to find out more)

#### 1. Cloudland!

**Prelude** from the Suite in G Major by **Johann Sebastian Bach**

**Humoresque** from the Suite for Solo Cello by **Paul Patterson**

What kind of a story is the cello telling you in these two pieces? Who are the characters in the story? What's happening?!

\* **Fun fact:** the first piece you hear was written around 1717, and the second in 1987. That's a whole 270 years apart!

- While you listen, draw your own flag for Cloudland on the sheet provided.  
Make sure you keep hold of it, as you will need it later on in the programme.

#### 2. Rainbow Fish

*Rainbow Fish*

*Swimming through the Ocean*

*Will you share one of your scales with me?*

*Swim, swim, swim, swim!*

#### 3. The Great Train Race by **Ian Clarke**

You will need your flag for this piece!

**Fun fact:** Ian Clarke wrote this piece in 2011 – how old were you then?

- Listen out for the train whistle; how many times does it sound?
- Wave your flag every time you hear the train go past!

#### 4. Jet Whistle by **Heitor Villa-Lobos**

This piece was written in 1950. Can you complete the picture on the back of this programme?

- Listen out for the flute making the sound of a jet whistle at the end – that's the plane taking off!

#### 5. Finale

We rejoin Rainbow Fish on his journey through the ocean, and invite you to help us create our beautiful ocean world.

# PLAYER FACT FILES

## FLUTE (flautist!)

My name is Meera, I'm aged 22 and I grew up in Warrington. My first experience of the flute was at a musical instrument open evening at my primary school. The flute struck me as the most beautiful instrument owing to the fascinating sound I discovered I could produce - and how shiny it is! I began studying at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music aged 12 and enjoyed many a happy Saturday there until I left school, while on Sundays I played Principal Flute with the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. During the school holidays over the years, I enjoyed playing with the National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra and National Youth Chamber Orchestra. After gaining a First Class Bachelor degree at the Royal Northern College of Music, I am now at the Royal Academy of Music. I am incredibly lucky to have gained awards from Help Musicians UK, Countess of Munster and a scholarship from the Royal Academy. I also like rock climbing and I love jazz!

## SARAH (cellist!)

Hello, I'm Sarah and I'm 23 years old. I started cello when I was 6, although it was my ambition from the age of 2! After hearing my mother (an amateur cellist) playing, I would climb on her knee and try to play her cello - which was probably bigger than I was! I became fascinated by contemporary music and improvisation, winning the BBC Proms Inspire Young Composers' Competition in 2012, and playing with the National Youth Orchestra at the BBC Proms. I've performed live on BBC Radio 3 as well as having my compositions broadcast - including a BBC commission for BBC Symphony Orchestra players. After graduating from the Royal Northern College of Music with a First Class Bachelor of Music with Honours degree, I'm currently studying for my Masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music with two amazing cello professors: Guy Johnston and Robert Cohen. I am very lucky to have been supported by the EMI Music Sound Foundation and the Sir John Barbirolli Memorial Foundation.

# INSTRUMENT FACT FILES

## FLUTE

The flute is one of the oldest musical instruments of all and is regarded as the first ever wind instrument. It has been in use at least since the Stone Age.

Wooden flutes were played in European classical music from as early as the 1700 - that's the Georgian period, in English history! These flutes had only one key and produce a very different, yet beautiful, sound to our flutes today.

Modern concert flutes are made of precious metal. The range of metals includes silver, gold, platinum or a combination of all of these. Each metal has a particular sound quality and each flautist has his or her own preference - rather like whether you prefer silver or gold jewellery!

**Quiz: Can you guess which type of metal Meera's flute is made from? (Hint: think of the colour!)**

## CELLO

The cello is one of the biggest instruments in the violin family - think of it as the violin's older cousin! The large wooden body makes the sound carry. The bow is made of horsehair and wood - usually pernambuco wood, which comes from a special kind of orange-coloured tree in Brazil.

Some of the oldest cellos were made hundreds of years ago, like Sarah's cello, which belongs to the Royal Academy of Music, where she studies. It was made by an instrument maker called William Forster, who lived from 1764-1824. William's father and son were instrument makers too, both also called William to make things confusing!

**Fun fact:** William Forster's family originally came from Cumberland, in the North of England - that's where Sarah comes from too!

**Quiz: Who was the British king or queen when Sarah's cello was made?**

# Some things to do at home

## Some famous cellists

**Pablo Casals**, a Spanish cellist, born in 1876, who discovered the Solo Cello Suites by Bach that Sarah played.

Ask your parents' help to listen to Pablo Casals playing Bach's 1<sup>st</sup> Suite. (Parents: you can find it on YouTube here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KX1YtvFZOj0> ) Can you hear how old the recording is from all the crackly sounds? It was made in 1954!

**Yo-Yo Ma** is one of the most famous cellists living today. Sarah was lucky enough to meet him backstage when he performed at the Barbican concert hall in London. You can find him on the BBC Proms playing the very same suite! (Parents: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGgG-0lOJjk>) Do the two recordings sound different? Who do you prefer? (There are no 'right answers'!!)

## Heitor Villa-Lobos

If you enjoyed this fun piece by the Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos, try listening to his "Bachianas Brasileiras no. 5", written for a group of 8 cellos and we love its jazzy mood! Listen to this recording played by the cello section from one of the world's most famous orchestras, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHPt-2uZXLM>

## Rainbow Fish improvisation

If you like Rainbow Fish as much as we do, why not read the story yourself at home? (Parents: you can find it here [http://www.fcrr.org/assessment/SLP/Joann\\_Handouts/The\\_Rainbow\\_Fish\\_PA.pdf](http://www.fcrr.org/assessment/SLP/Joann_Handouts/The_Rainbow_Fish_PA.pdf))

If you play an instrument, why not invent your own music to go along with it?

Or listen it to it alongside one of our favourite pieces. Ask your parents to find <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Fle2CP8gR0> and enjoy listening to the watery piano sounds of the 2 Arabesques by Claude Debussy.

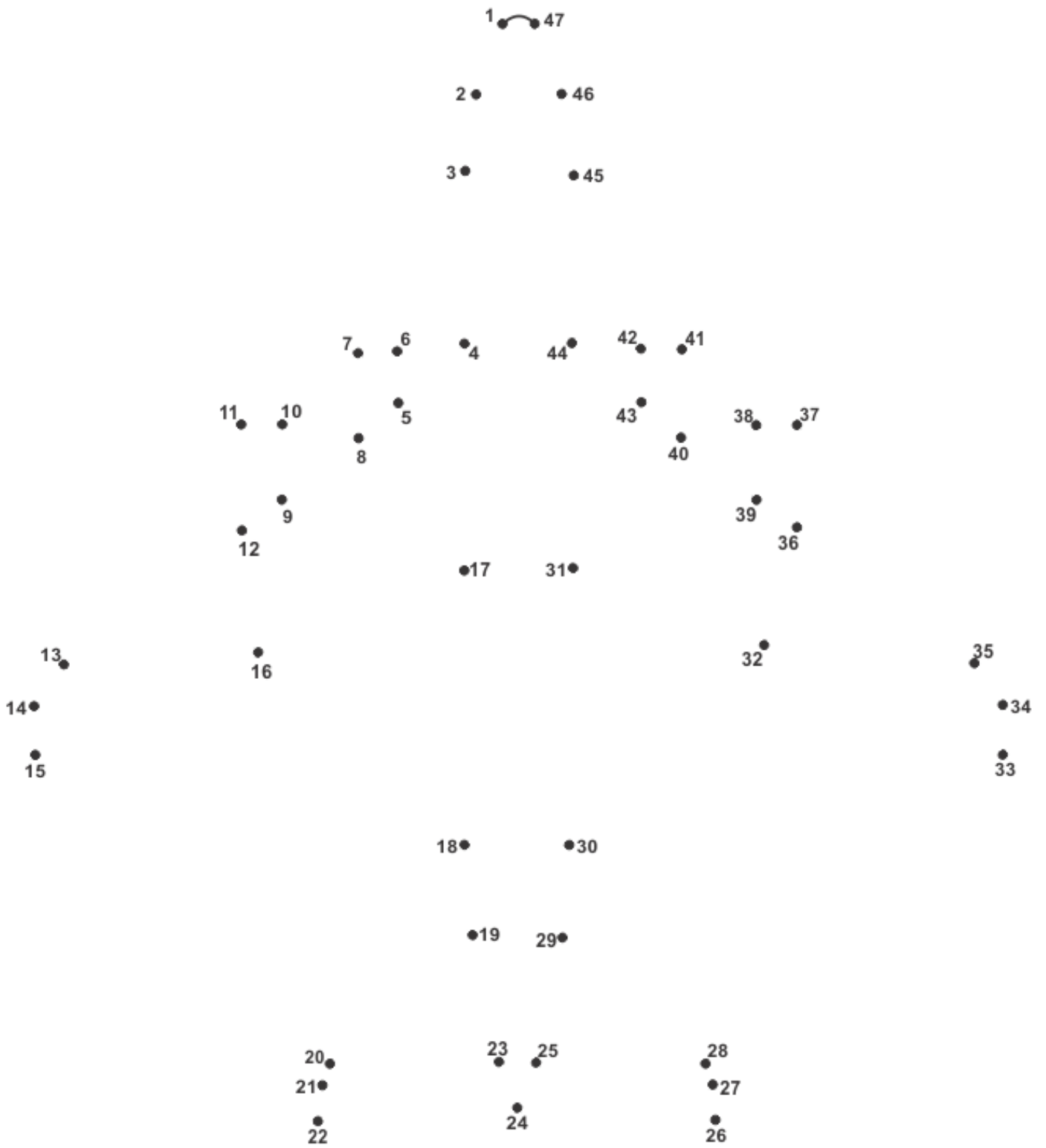
See if you can remember the Rainbow Fish song to sing at the end!

With special thanks to:-



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