Goldfield Ensemble Education project 2016

Schools Pack

The Music Box

(based on a true story…mostly…)



The Music Box is a story of two men: Maelzel the greedy inventor and Beethoven the famous composer. It is also the story of magical musical inventions and a beautiful clockwork Ballerina…. Through music, narration, puppetry and images in a theatre box, we create a world of wonder and curiosity where our young audiences experience compositions by monumental composers arranged for string quartet and toy piano.

Toy pianos (also known as the *kinderklavier)*have an instant and enduring appeal that has captured the imagination of both children and composers (most famously, John Cage in 1948 with his *Suite for Toy Piano*). Our two toy pianos used in The Music Box are made by the renowned German company Schoenhut and their distinctive sound comes from metal sounding bars - a more durable development of the original glass bars!

We hope that our young audiences will be as captivated by these tiny pianos as we are and so we have created a **Schools Pack** which enables children to create Toy Piano music of their own.

How does it work?

We will provide templates, created in the Scratch programming language, for children to create their own Toy Pianos and other mechanical musical instruments. We want you to hack the code – adapt it and make it your own! Using their own sounds, children can also learn how the metronome (which was so important to Beethoven) works in relation to their own musical compositions.

We will send a link to a series of Scratch templates (via [www.robgodman.com](http://www.robgodman.com) although this should probably be the Ritual site Kate – will it be up???) to your school during the first week of March. Full instructions will be included in the pack. The software is very simple to install and templates are delivered in the same easy-to-use Scratch format that the children and staff are familiar with.

What happens next?

We hope that you will enjoy making music using The Music Box Scratch template with your class. But we would love to receive your feedback! Details on where to leave this will be included in the pack. You can also upload your class creations as a video to (\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*) - we would like to feature some of them - and the children’s comments - and link to our website!

Is there any cost?

No – it’s entirely free to your school

Can we keep templates?

Yes!

Troubleshooting?

No problem – just email us on \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* and we’ll be on the phone to help you sort out any difficulties.

Scratch templates written by Rob Godman

The Music Box devised, produced and written by Kate Romano

Performed by the Goldfield Ensemble

Goldfieldensemble.co.uk