

ABC  
Classics  
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# CLASSIC KIDS: SOUNDS LIKE AUSTRALIA

A musical tale of the Australian landscape





Kirra Quokka calls out to Harper the Humpback Whale

## CLASSIC KIDS: SOUNDS LIKE AUSTRALIA

In **Sounds Like Australia**, Play School's Luke Carroll narrates a musical tale of the Australian landscape, as Kirra Quokka travels from Rottnest Island to the bright lights of Sydney Opera House.

It can be difficult to know how to start introducing pre-schoolers to classical music. *Classic Kids: Sounds Like Australia* is a great place to begin. It reaches beyond traditional classical music and introduces listeners to contemporary Australian music-making. In each episode the Australian environment, landscape and weather are evoked through music and storytelling. Children will see how instruments work together to create magical soundscapes, providing stimuli for spatial thinking.

Sounds Like Australia can also be a rich pretext for drama, as children are offered a range of chances to extend the story and personalise the narrative through their own play. These interactive elements help pre-schoolers work towards Outcome 5 of The Early Years Learning Framework, enabling children to become 'effective communicators'.

**Classic Kids** is an ABC KIDS listen and ABC Classic FM co-production. It was produced in collaboration with the Sydney Opera House Children's Families and Creative Learning Program.



## EPISODES

<b>1</b>	<b>Kirra Quokka finds a concert ticket</b>	7'14
	Music: <i>Crow Dance</i> by Ross Edwards	
<b>2</b>	<b>Harper the Humpback and Kirra float over the ocean</b>	8'41
	Music: <i>Ocean Sunfish</i> by Nigel Westlake, arr. Jessica Wells	
<b>3</b>	<b>Niipu Numbat and Kirra ride a train across the desert</b>	8'59
	Music: <i>Corrugation</i> by Iain Grandage, arr. Jessica Wells	
<b>4</b>	<b>Elena Emu and Kirra Quokka climb up the Blue Mountains</b>	5'29
	Music: <i>Blue Mountains Suite</i> by Jessica Wells	
<b>5</b>	<b>Padma Possum and Kirra Quokka arrive in the city</b>	6'13
	Music from <i>White Knight and Beaver</i> by Martin Wesley-Smith	
<b>6</b>	<b>Kirra's big musical concert surprise!</b>	8'02
	Music: <i>Finale Medley</i> by Ross Edwards, Nigel Westlake, Iain Grandage, Jessica Wells and Martin Wesley-Smith, arr. Jessica Wells	
	Script by Tim Bosanquet	
	Underscores and themes by Jessica Wells	

## MUSIC

<b>7</b>	<b>Crow Dance</b>	2'47
	From <i>Animisms</i> . Music by Ross Edwards (Australian Music Centre)	
<b>8</b>	<b>Ocean Sunfish</b>	3'25
	Music by Nigel Westlake (Rimshot Music Australia Pty Ltd), arr. Jessica Wells	
<b>9</b>	<b>Corrugation</b>	3'31
	Music by Iain Grandage (Copyright Control), arr. Jessica Wells	
	<b>Blue Mountain Suite</b>	
<b>10</b>	1. Bush Awakens	0'45
<b>11</b>	2. Blue Mountain March	1'35
<b>12</b>	3. Summit View	0'20
	Music by Jessica Wells (Jigsaw Music)	

## White Knight and Beaver

<b>13</b>	Excerpt 1	1'45
<b>14</b>	Excerpt 2	0'41
	Music by Martin Wesley Smith (Copyright Control), arr. Jessica Wells	
<b>15</b>	<b>Finale Medley</b>	2'17
	Music by Ross Edwards (Australian Music Centre), Nigel Westlake (Rimshot Music Australia Pty Ltd), Iain Grandage (Copyright Control), Jessica Wells (Jigsaw Music) and Martin Wesley-Smith (Copyright Control), arr. Jessica Wells	
<b>16</b>	<b>Kirra Quokka Theme</b>	0'12
<b>17</b>	<b>Carlos Crow Theme</b>	0'09
<b>18</b>	<b>Harper Humpback Theme</b>	0'16
<b>19</b>	<b>Niipu Numbat Theme</b>	0'12
<b>20</b>	<b>Elena Emu Theme</b>	0'11
<b>21</b>	<b>Padma Possum Theme</b>	0'13
<b>22</b>	<b>Locomotive Theme</b>	0'59
	Music by Jessica Wells (Jigsaw Music)	
	Total Playing Time	00'00

**Luke Carroll** *narrator*

**Ensemble Offspring**

Claire Edwardes *Director, marimba, percussion*

Véronique Serret *violin, electric violin*

Freya Schack-Arnott *cello*

Lamorna Nightingale *flute, piccolo*

Jason Noble *clarinet, bass clarinet*





## SOUNDS LIKE AUSTRALIA LEARNING ACTIVITIES

You can continue learning with Sounds like Australia at home or pre-school in a variety of ways – here are some ideas to get you started.

### TONE COLOUR IN MUSIC



Véronique Serret (violin) and Freya Schack-Arnott (cello) perform Harper's theme

Music is made up of six important elements: beat, rhythm, pitch, tempo, tone colour, dynamics. Tone colour is all about what a sound sounds like. Being able to distinguish between sounds and describe how they are different to each other is a central part of understanding music and also helps with the development of other vital skills such as reading.

### While listening to the episodes with the children, educators could:

- Throughout the six episodes, different musical instruments are used to depict different places, and different characters doing different things. Pause, and talk about the instrument/s being used. Ask children about what the instrument is and what it sounds like. Use “non-musical” vocabulary like *windy*, *floaty*, or *scratchy*.

### After listening to the episode(s) with the children, educators could:

- Find video clips online that show what instruments are and how they sound. You can find examples of clips from sites like ABC Kids Listen and ABC Education. After investigating orchestral instruments, experiment with creating some similar sounds by reusing items that you might find at home, like jars or plastic tubes and tubs.

## MOVEMENT WITH MUSIC



Véronique Serret uses her electric violin to mimic Harper the Humpback Whale's call

For humans, music and movement often go hand-in-hand. Movement is made up of four important elements that can be used to describe *how* we move: weight, space, time, flow.

### After listening to the episode(s) with the children, educators could:

- Speak with the children about how each of the characters might move their bodies as they travel with Kirra. Revisiting the music that was used for characters like Carlos the Crow (*Crow Dance*) or Harper the Humpback Whale (*Ocean Sunfish*), and the storyline surrounding those characters, will give a great starting point for children to develop their own movements to represent them.
- Investigating the elements of movement through questions is a good starting point. How would Harper move when she is floating in the ocean? Would her movements be heavy or light (weight), in straight lines or curvy (space), fast or slow (time), narrow and limited or free flowing (flow)?
- Speak with the children about what they are doing and how they are doing it, as they move to the music, using some or all of those four elements.

## DRAMA AND PROBLEM SOLVING



*Jason Noble (bass clarinet) and Lamorna Nightingale (flute) perform 'Corrugation'*

After the children are familiar with Kirra's story, the ups and downs of her travels from home and her eventual arrival at the Opera House, you could plan drama experiences with the children by asking questions like:

- What else could Kirra do to help Harper Humpback find her in the dark?
- When Kirra was first walking around the Blue Mountains, she came across some people camping out overnight. What might she tell them about her trip so far? And what will she do when one of them asks her to join them for breakfast?

## AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FAUNA



*Kirra Quokka, the cutest animal in the whole world!*

The principal characters in Sounds Like Australia are native Australian animals and unique in many ways.

Given children's innate curiosity and sometimes insatiable desire to explore, these animals could form the basis of an ongoing investigation into native animals, their environments, diets and so on. This investigation could be undertaken alongside listening to the episodes, or after Kirra's travels reach the Opera House.

## DEVELOPING SENSES OF PLACE



*Toot! Toot! Kirra Quokka rides the train across the desert*

A significant part of being in early childhood is developing a sense of place. Children will perceive places such as communities, early childhood settings, cities, families and so on in different ways. Kirra visits a range of places as she travels from Rottnest Island to Sydney, traversing the entire country from west to east.

**Discussions about Kirra's travels could be the starting points for a range of opportunities for children to explore their notions of their places. Parents, carers or educators could:**

- Assist children to track Kirra's journey on a map of Australia, keeping track of the places she visited and the direction she travelled. This could be completed at the end of each episode, building a record of her trip over time.
- Additional opportunities for investigating each place could involve online searching, personal accounts of travels, experts from families or the community visiting the centre and sharing artefacts from their own travels to those places.

Exploring these activities for further learning helps pre-schoolers work towards Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes 2, 4 and 5, enabling children to 'connect with and contribute to their world', 'become confident and involved learners' and 'become effective communicators'.

## MUSIC NOTES

### **Crow Dance**

Music by Ross Edwards

*Crow Dance* creates a feeling of excitement and busyness as Carlos Crow flies in to help Kirra pack for her adventure. The fast tempo and the quick changes in pitch, from high to low notes, mimic an excited crow swooping, pecking and hopping around. Children can spread their wings, hop and dance along like Carlos Crow to the sounds of the clarinet.

### **Ocean Sunfish**

Music by Nigel Westlake, arr. Jessica Wells

*Ocean Sunfish* conveys the gentle rolling movement of the vast ocean as Kirra and Harper the Humpback travel to the mainland. With main melodies played by flute, violin and cello we can imagine little fish and big fish talking to each other in the calm blue. In this episode children will learn how the cello and flute make beautiful floating ocean sounds.

### **Corrugation**

Music by Iain Grandage, arr. Jessica Wells

*Corrugation* uses a progressive, rolling rhythm to produce a sound with forward momentum, reminiscent of a bumpy car ride or train journey. In this piece, the bass clarinet mimics a digeridoo calling out across the desert sands. In this episode, children can use their arms as train wheels and imagine they are helping to create the big, bumpy, outback driving sound and make the train go faster!

### **Blue Mountain Suite**

Music by Jessica Wells

The flute and piccolo play a starring part in the *Blue Mountain Suite*, mimicking four different bird calls native to the Blue Mountains bush. See if you can spot the Spotted Pardalote, Crimson Rosella, the Pallid Cuckoo and the Butcherbird. Children can follow the warbly bird sounds as they march through the bush. The gentle ascending scale, marimba trills and triumphant melody will let them know they've reached the top!

## White Knight and Beaver,

Music by Martin Wesley Smith

*White Knight and Beaver* is fast and frantic, with complex rhythms, lots of notes being played all at once, and an electronic backing tape that sounds like machines beeping and cash registers. In this episode, children can imagine how the fast tempo and complex marimba rhythms can create the sounds of the big, busy city.

## About ABC KIDS Listen



**ABC KIDS listen is a dedicated radio station for preschoolers, brought to you by the ABC.**

Our aim is to provide children aged 0–5 and their families with a way to access the music and stories they love in a trusted online environment. ABC KIDS listen cares about providing Australian families with a safe space for their children to access educational and entertaining audio content.

ABC KIDS listen has been designed to suit the changing needs of a child's day and night. Simply listen live as our programs flow through the day, or choose a program on demand that best suits your needs at that moment.

Our programs are inspired by the Early Years Learning Framework of Australia, which encourages children to learn through play. The high quality audio programs give preschoolers a space where they can get their bodies moving and brains working. Explore, learn and play, and later wind down, rest and sleep.

It's free and commercial free. Listen via DAB+ radio, online, or download the ABC KIDS listen app.

[www.abc.net.au/kidslisten](http://www.abc.net.au/kidslisten)

## About ABC Classic FM



**Thinking about dipping your toe in classical music?**

You don't need to be an expert to enjoy everything this enormous world of music has to offer. From the glory of Bach to childhood favourites like Peter and the Wolf, and all the way to new works from homegrown composers like Elena Kats-Chernin, it's too easy to fall in love with classical music.

ABC Classic FM is Australia's only national classical music network. We play you the best in classical music from home and beyond, wherever you choose to listen.

Wake up on the right side of bed with Classic Breakfast and head home road rage-free with Classic Drive. In between you'll catch concerts from around Australia and the rest of the world, alongside our shows celebrating film music (Screen Sounds), opera (The Opera Show), sacred music (For The God Who Sings) and even gaming music (Game Show). Ever done yoga with Australia's best chamber musicians in the room? Treat yourself by subscribing to Classic Flow.

We're also passionate about Australian music and performance, particularly from our crop of emerging composers and musicians. No matter what time of day you listen, you'll hear magnificent Australian talent being celebrated on ABC Classic FM.

[www.abc.net.au/classic](http://www.abc.net.au/classic)





Kirra Quokka  
finds a ticket

## Luke Carroll

'Growing up I loved all kinds of sports but my main love was Rugby League and I dreamed of playing it professionally. However all that changed when my Grade 3 teacher took a photo of me and sent it to an acting agency. They contacted me and I went into a meeting and it was then that my mother and I decided that acting might be a cool thing to get into as well.

From the age of nine, acting slowly took over as a career of choice. My first big break came in a television show called *The Flying Doctors*. A couple of months later they were casting a children's show called *Lift Off* and I auditioned and won the role of Paul. I have appeared in many television series and theatre productions and have recently worked in a few films. Away from acting I still love to keep active and play as much social sport as I can.'

Luke is currently enjoying presenting on *Play School*.

[www.abc.net.au/playschool](http://www.abc.net.au/playschool)



## Ensemble Offspring

Ensemble Offspring are champions of adventurous new music. The group embraces open-minded music-making in all its forms, from seminal chamber works to free improvisation, alongside the creation of striking interdisciplinary productions. Based in Sydney, Ensemble Offspring is led by acclaimed percussionist Claire Edwardes, and the core sextet features some of Australia's most innovative and virtuosic performers. Winners of the 2016 Art Music Award for Excellence by an Organisation, in recognition of the group's more than 20 years contribution to Australian music, Ensemble Offspring has performed throughout Australia and the world – from Katherine to Hong Kong and Brugge to Wagga Wagga.

[www.ensembleoffspring.com](http://www.ensembleoffspring.com)





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# Classic Flow

Blissful yoga and meditation  
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