



Year 6 Music – John Adams' Short Ride in a Fast Machine

Tier 3 vocabulary

Minimalism	Minimalism is a simple style of music which originated on the West coast of America in the 1960s with composers such as Steve Reich, Terry Riley and Philip Glass.
Ostinato	A rhythmic, melodic or harmonic pattern, which is repeated many times.
Tempo	Fast or slow
Pulse	Music's heartbeat
Rhythm	Patterns of short and long notes



Short Ride in a Fast Machine – John Adams Electric Counterpoint - Steve Reich

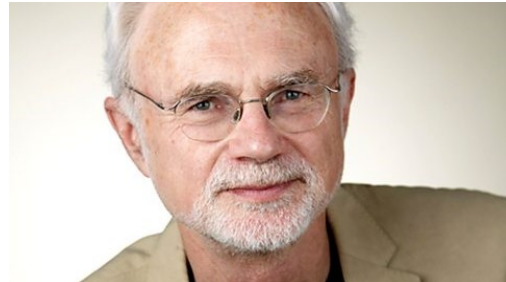
Features:

Minimalist music often features:

- layers of **ostinati**
- constantly repeated patterns that are subjected to gradual changes
- layered textures
- interlocking repeated phrases and rhythms
- **diatonic** harmony

The combined effect can be almost hypnotic.

Diatonic means using notes which belong to the key rather than chromatic notes, which are outside the key.



John Adams was born on the 15th February 1947 in Massachusetts, USA and began writing music when he was about 10. As a student he became fascinated with a slightly older American composer called Steve Reich and his new style of music called minimalism. It's estimated that Short Ride in a Fast Machine is performed somewhere in the world at least once every day!

Compare and contrast with other classical pieces previously studied: Year 4 - Vivaldi, The Four Seasons and Year 5 - Holst, The Planets.

KS3: develop a deepening understanding of the music that is performed and to which they listen.