

ACT 3: THE HARPY

In Act 3, scene 3 Ariel transforms into a huge and scary creature called a harpy. In Greek mythology, harpies were described as having a woman's head and body with bird's wings and claws. They were large and very frightening.

The orchestra is often used to depict scary beasts and monsters. With over 80 musicians playing loudly together, the orchestra can quite quickly become a very scary thing! Russian composer **Igor Stravinsky** used the orchestra to describe a very frightening character called King Katschei. We are going to use Stravinsky's terrifying music to describe the harpy.

No one really knows what a harpy looks like so we can invent whatever we like. Answer the following questions:

1. How many arms, legs and wings does the harpy have?
2. How many eyes and where are they?
3. What colour is the harpy?
4. What type of skin/ fur or scales does s/he have?
5. How big is s/he and what expression is on her/his face?

Remember that we want the harpy to be as terrifying as possible so you can be a bit wild with your answers!

Make a list of the things above and any other elements you want to include in your depiction of the harpy

Listen to the opening of Stravinsky's piece and as you listen quickly draw your version of the harpy. Let Stravinsky's music inspire you but also try to include everything on your list.

CLIP: Stravinsky Infernal Dance of King Kastchei from Firebird (stop at 41 secs)
<https://youtu.be/jmRU6cJeVDs>

Listen over and over until you are happy with your artwork. Make it as big and colourful as possible.

Harpy squawks a message to Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio who stand in a 'strange stare'. Can you add them onto your picture?

Finally, Harpy is chased away but what does s/he say as s/he leaves? Listen to the ending of Stravinsky's piece and try to fit a short sentence to the repeated pattern. Harpy is chanting something as s/he escapes!

CLIP: Stravinsky Infernal Dance of King Kastchei from Firebird (3'45 – 4'06)
<https://youtu.be/jmRU6cJeVDs?t=225>

**SEND YOUR CLASS TEACHER OR US A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR DRAWING
OF THE HARPY!**



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IDEAS PAGE

You can use this page to write down your ideas and/or draw your picture of the Harpy