

LEON AND THE PLACE BETWEEN

Inspired by the book written by Angela McAllister,
illustrated by Grahame Baker-Smith and published by Templar
Music by Paul Rissmann

NOTES FROM THE COMPOSER

I love this book. Angela McAllister's brilliant prose and Grahame Baker-Smith's vibrant imagery transports readers, young and old, through a world full of wonder.

Set in a dazzling fairground, *Leon and the Place Between* is an adventure-story that not only presents a cavalcade of circus performers, it also explores more serious issues such as trust, confidence and self-belief. The book sits perfectly in the middle of the primary school curriculum so young readers will marvel at the spectacle of the story, while older children can't fail to be impressed by Angela's clever use of language and Graham's detailed illustrations.

JOIN US

My musical setting of the book will be the centrepiece of our concert programme and we'd like to invite your students to take part in its performance. Although the music will be performed as a continuous 18-minute work, the score can be easily broken into short

sections or episodes, so this should make navigating the work and learning all the participatory elements as simple as possible in class. In addition to this pack, a whole range of digital resources are also available for download.

DOWNLOAD PRESENTATION FILES (containing all the lyrics and audio)

You will find a PowerPoint file of all the participatory songs here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Uwg6Vr16QOPkdNme9BupB_IWT6ek1dqR/view?usp=sharing

A PowerPoint show file (if you don't have PowerPoint installed on your computer):

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n3qaSSDOH_c0IGAdiWryKhWqMD9OF0mx/view?usp=sharing

An Apple Keynote file of all the participatory songs here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cnQltwu0j0sHrdZcdNVXOXqMOSriS8T/view?usp=sharing>

AUDIO DEMO

I have made a midi mock-up of the music for you to listen to and practise with in class. I promise that in concert the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra will sound so much better than my computer but these demo tracks will give you a good idea of what is in store.

You can listen to a complete midi demo of the piece on SoundCloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/paul-rissmann/leon-and-the-place-between-demo>

You can download all of the practice track audio files here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NG_AlkkhCmn0OdetOkylMzzncWlkqXkA/view?usp=sharing

On the following pages, you will find sheets with the text, manuscript and top tips for each song or participatory moment in the score. Feel free to duplicate these if you wish.

In some parts, your students will sing music that feels like a complete stand-alone song, whilst at other times, they will simply sing a short phrase or refrain. All of these elements are very short and shouldn't be too tricky to master. Please practice them with your students in advance of our concert.

I hope you have lots of fun exploring this magical book with your students.

Good luck!

Paul Rissmann, June 2021

SONG

I Don't Believe in Magic

PRACTICE TRACK 1

NB: This song is closely related to the final song at the very end of the piece. Once you've mastered this one, PRACTICE TRACK 11 will be really easy to sing.

LYRICS

I don't believe in magic,
No way – it's never real,
I don't believe in magic.

It can't be true,
It's just not true,
It's only clever tricks.

So I don't believe in magic.

MUSIC

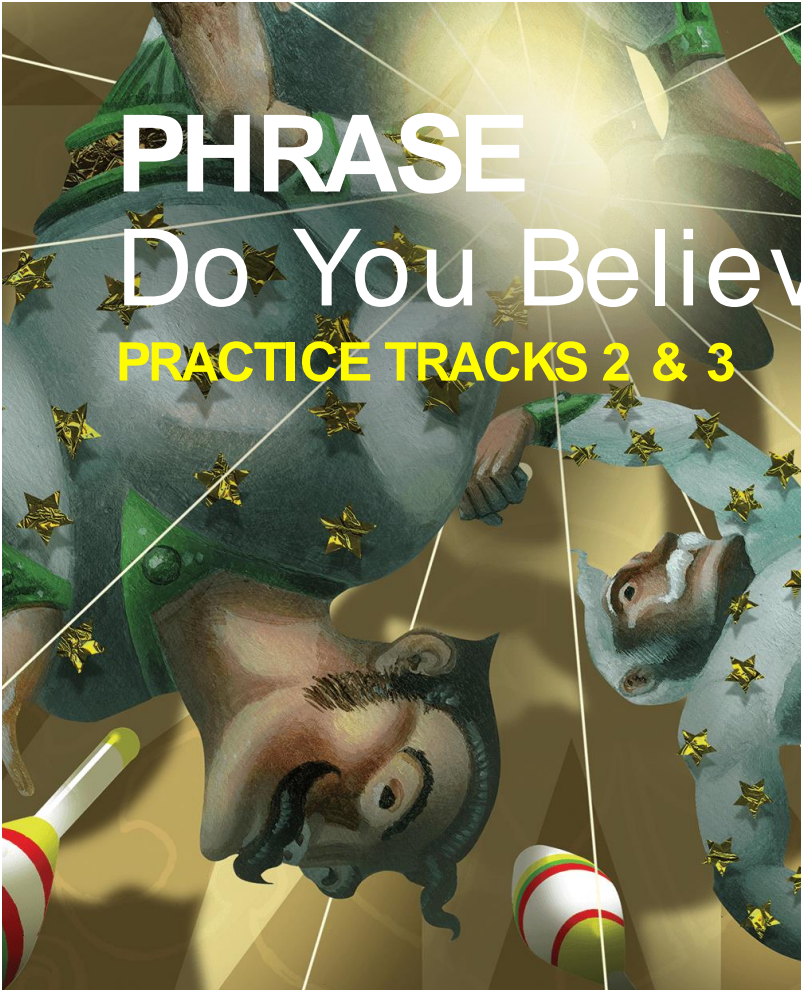
$\text{♩} = 60$ *mf*

I don't be-lieve in ma-gic___ No way, it's ne-ver real, I

don't be-lieve in ma-gic___ It can't be true, It's just not

f *p*

true, It's on-ly cle-ver tricks. So I don't be-lieve in ma-gic___



PHRASE

Do You Believe in Magic?

PRACTICE TRACKS 2 & 3

MUSIC

$\text{♩} = 60$ *p*

Do you be - lieve in ma - gic _____ ?

This isn't so much of a song but a simple refrain that pops up during the Juggler's routine (PRACTICE TRACK 2) and also in the magical carousel (PRACTICE TRACK 3).

Try to sing this phrase as softly and mysteriously as possible.

Immediately before you sing, you will hear this theme played in the orchestra by the bass clarinet. Listen out for its sound.

Listen also for the triangle. It will give you a clear sign as to when to start singing.





THE MAGICIAN

Abdul Kazam

PRACTICE TRACKS 4-6

The mighty magician Abdul Kazam has his very own theme (tune). Once you get its sound in your ears, listen out for it in the music; you will find his magic is everywhere!

PRACTICE TRACK 4

$\text{♩} = 120$ *mf* NB: You sing this phrase twice

Trust no-thing, trust no-thing, but be-lieve_____

PRACTICE TRACK 5

Before you sing Abdul Kazam's name, you will hear it played triumphantly by the brass. Aim to sing the phrase below with as much power as you can - but make sure you don't shout!

f 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

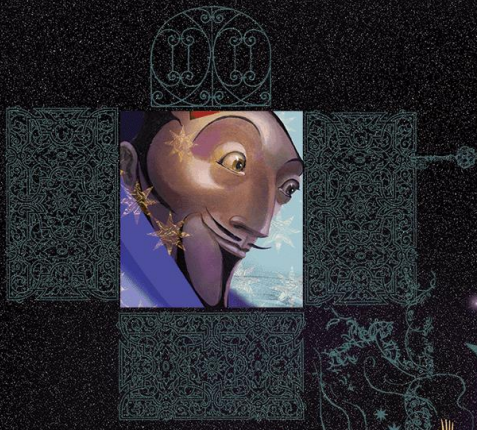
Ab - dul Ka - zam Ab - dul Ka - zam

PRACTICE TRACK 6

This phrase appears three times throughout the story. On the second and third occasions, you sing it a little higher.

f 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Ab - dul Ka - zam Ab - dul Ka - zam



RHYTHM

The Magic Box

PRACTICE TRACK 7

When Abdul Kazam's magic transports Leon to the 'Place Between' the orchestra play six explosive chords.

We'd like you to join us in each of those chords, by clapping in time with the music.

The chart to the right shows the orchestra's rhythmical sequence. Start by counting out loud, reading line by line, left to right, from top to bottom. Now, try clapping every-time you say the number 1.

Finally, don't count aloud - count the numbers silently in your head. Then try clapping along with PRACTICE TRACK 7.

CLAP

1	2	3	
1	2		
1	2		
1	2	3	
1	2	3	4
1			



PHRASE

The Place Between

PRACTICE TRACKS 8 & 9

In the Place Between, Leon meets a boy who takes him on an exhilarating magic carpet ride. This music is fast and exciting and we need your help for this adventure. The words and music below are very simple. The trick is to listen out for the sound of the phrase played by the violins because you will sing it immediately afterwards.

PRACTICE TRACK 8

$\text{♩} = 120$ *f*

This is the Place _____ Be - tween.

PRACTICE TRACK 9

NB: don't worry about counting this rest. We will tell you when to sing again!

$\text{♩} = 120$ *f*

This is the Place _____ Be - tween. *p* This is the Place.

Notice that this music is a little higher here. It also has an extra 'fragment' right at the end. Make sure you sing these final words very softly.



SONG

The White Rabbit

PRACTICE TRACK 10

During his adventure, Leon discovers a magician's rabbit trapped in the 'Place Between'. This is a sad song about her.

TOP TIP

Even though this music is very soft, you will need to take in as much air as possible to sing your very best. Ensuring you take a big, deep breath but don't lift your shoulders as you do it! Aim to sing this song with the most beautiful sound you can.

MUSIC LYRICS

She was never called back,
 She is always here,
 In the Place Between,
 Lost in the Place Between.

$\text{♩} = 72$ *mp*

She was ne-ver called back... She is al - ways here, In the
 Place Be - tween Lost in the Place Be - tween.

SONG

Do You Believe in Magic?

PRACTICE TRACK 11

NB: This is the final song in our adventure. It is almost the same as the very first song - only the lyrics are different.

LYRICS

Do you believe in magic?
And in a Place Between,
Do you believe in magic?

Could it be real?
What if it's real
And not just clever tricks?

So do you believe in magic?

MUSIC

$\text{♩} = 60$ *mf*

Do you be-lieve in ma-gic?— And in a Place Be-tween, Do

you be-lieve in ma-gic?— Could it be real? What if it's

f *p*

real and not just cle-ver tricks? So do you be-lieve in ma-gic?—