



SPARKPOINT

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SING WHEN
YOU'RE WINNING

Inside:
Discover some world-changing
musical masterpieces.

Welcome

I'm acutely conscious that it must now feel like a very long time indeed since the start of term and yet, by the same token, it probably feels like no time at all! Anyway, with the Tucks and House Singing now only hours away, I thought it was only right that this edition of SparkPoint should give itself over to the power of song and the astonishing impact of music on shaping world history and events.

ANCIENT MUSIC

Winter is icummen in,
Lhude sing Goddamm.
Raineth drop and staineth slop,
And how the wind doth ramm!
Sing: Goddamm.

Skiddeth bus and sloppeth us,
An ague hath my ham.
Freezeth river, turneth liver,
Damn you, sing: Goddamm.

Goddamm, Goddamm, 'tis why I am, Goddamm,
So 'gainst the winter's balm.

Sing goddamm, damm, sing Goddamm.
Sing goddamm, sing goddamm, DAMM.

Ezra Pound

POEM OF THE WEEK

carnaptious adjective

*Irritable; quick-tempered; quarrelsome; cantankerous
— especially toward the end of a half-term!*

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Rite of Spring — by Stravinsky — was, perhaps the most fundamental shift in music in the early part of the 20th Century. With its rawness and its peculiar additive rhythms, the ballet caused a literal riot when performed.



MUSIC OF THE WEEK



BEATLEMANIA

The song 'I wanna hold your hand', released in 1964 kickstarted what some consider to have been the 'glorious revolution' of the 1960s. Gaining unusual traction on both sides of the Atlantic, the song became the anthem of the zeitgeist, bringing zest and vitality to an America that was still reeling from the assassination of JFK.



GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Full of anger and rebellion, this iconic song by the Sex Pistols was released to coincide with the Silver Jubilee. The fact that the band's attempt to play the song from the river outside Westminster Palace was thwarted by the authorities only fuelled its popularity and spawned a new age of rebellious, outspoken music.



TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

Wagner divides opinion in terms of themes and aesthetics, but there are few who would deny he was a genius. Writing with particular reference to the Met's 2016 production, Stephen Moss explains why it is that his operatic works — and particularly this one — have attracted such a strong following.



These two paintings by Viktor Hartman represent two of the surviving works which inspired Mussorgsky's very famous piano suite. A showcase masterpiece for virtuoso pianists, regarding these works and listening to the music does create an eerie synergy.

IMAGE OF THE WEEK