

Sumer is icumen in

Try this exercise before learning the piece:

At the end of the fourteenth century, an Italian composer called Antonio Zachara da Teramo wrote a **caccia** all about a market. A caccia is a vocal piece in which two upper voices in canon and a free voice below sing a lively text, often pictorially descriptive.

In this version you can hear the stallholders shouting about their food and merchandise and shoppers haggling over the price. You can easily re-create the effect if you organise yourselves into groups of four and say the following words at the speed of a lively march:

Peaches, chestnuts, cabbages and oranges,
Garlic, garlic, mustard and figs,
Anchovies, silverfish, clams with their tongues out,
Needles, spindles, odds and ends.

- The first person should start alone.
- The second joins in when the first has finished the first line.
- The third person starts when the second has finished the first line.
- The fourth starts when the third has finished the first line.

When you have finished all four lines return to the beginning, then keep going! And if you are going to get the full effect of the market you will need to do this really loudly!

Sumer is icumen in

Concert Pitch

Each new part enters at ϕ

Anon: c.1290

5 ϕ

Sum - mer is a com - ing in_____ Loud - ly sing cuck - oo

9 ϕ

Seeds are grow - ing mead - ows flow'r - ing Woods spring up a - new

13

Sing cuck - oo Ewes are bleat - ing af - ter lambs, cows

17

af - ter calves do moo. Bulls are start - ing Deer are fart - ing

21

Mer - ry sing cuck - oo Cuck - oo cuck - oo_____

25

Well do you sing cuck - oo Don't stop what ev - er you do.

Ostinato: perform as a round in two parts. Second part starts after two bars.

29

Sing cuck - oo now__ Sing cuck - oo

Sumer is icumen in: Our Performance

Name Date

Think about your performance of *Sumer is icumen in* and answer the questions below.

- 1 Which part did you play, ostinato or tune?

- 2 Which instrument did you play, or did you sing?

- 3 What is an ostinato?

- 4 Did the piece seem to go on and on, or did it have a definite ending?

- 5 Think of three ways in which the performance could be improved.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

My Own Round

Name Date

Think of a title for your own piece.

Listen to the recording of *Sumer is icumen in* and compare it to your own round. Tick the features that you can hear in both pieces.

Feature	<i>Sumer is icumen in</i> (recording)	My Own Round
Voices		
Instruments		
Male voices		
Female voices		
Mixture of male and female voices		
Skipping rhythm (Compound Time)		
Marching rhythm (Simple Time)		
No definite ending		
Fewer than 3 parts		
More than 3 parts		
Melody moves mainly by steps		
Melody moves mainly by leaps		
All the parts seem to fit		
Some of the parts seem to clash		
Fast Tempo (speed)		
Medium Tempo (speed)		
Slow Tempo (speed)		

Now suggest three ways in which your round could be improved:

- 1
- 2
- 3