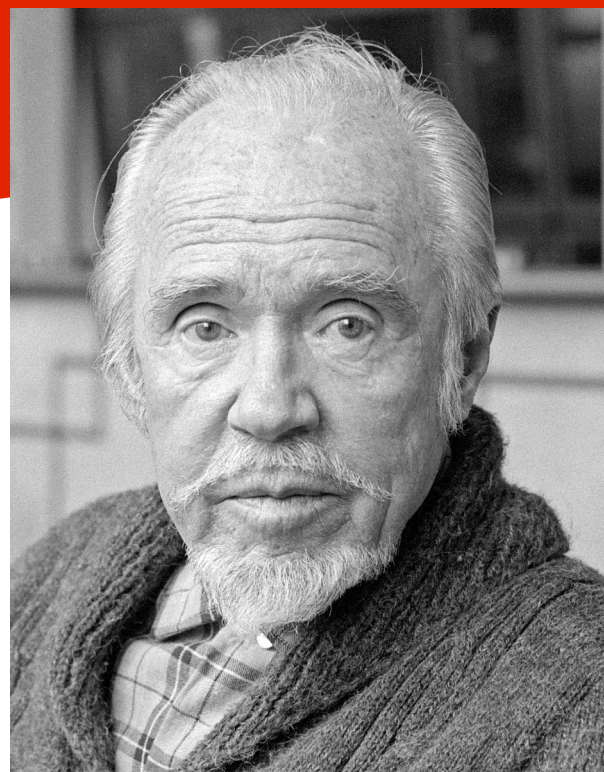


FUN FACTS!

CONLON NANCARROW



Born: 1912 in Texarkana, Arkansas
Died: 1997 in Mexico City, Mexico

As a young man, Nancarrow played trumpet in a jazz band

He wrote over 50 pieces for the player piano! What's a player piano?

The Entertainer on a player piano

Nancarrow: Study for Player Piano No. 21

This is a canon in two parts (see p. 6 for more about canons). You can hear the speed in the two parts changing over time. Then the end...wow!

"See" the score visually in this video

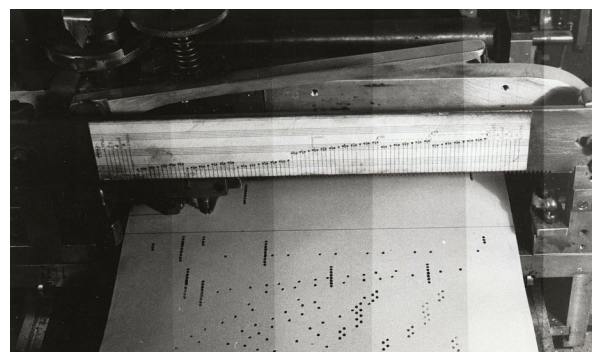
Nancarrow: Study for Player Piano No. 25

Using the player piano, Nancarrow can create music that would be impossible to play with just two hands! This one has some fun glissandos (when you swipe across the keyboard) and plays with the pedals. Watch the keys and hammers of the piano near the end...it's aliiiiiiiive!!!!

Composer György Ligeti said, "This music is the greatest discovery since Webern and Ives...something great and important for all music history! His music is so utterly original, enjoyable, perfectly constructed but at the same time emotional...for me it's the best of any composer living today."

Nancarrow: Piece for Ligeti (for Ligeti's 65th birthday)

This piece is in his "Boogie-Woogie style"



FUN FACTS!

MEXICO



Population: 130 million


Capital: Mexico City (Pop: 9 million)

Languages: Spanish and over 60 indigenous languages

Currency: Peso

Highest Peak: Pico de Orizaba volcano, 18,491 ft

Flag: Legend says that the Aztecs settled and built their capital city (Tenochtitlan, Mexico City today) on the spot where they saw an eagle perched on a cactus, eating a snake.

 Conlon Nancarrow moved to Mexico in 1940

Frida Kahlo

Click the link above to watch a video about this incredible artist!!



Viva la Vida

The Aizuris visited the Frida Kahlo Museum in 2015

Two of our favorite foods!

♥ Tacos ♥



Al pastor, barbacoa, carnitas, tinga, cochinita pibil, pescado, guisado, de canasta, suadero...and more Try them all!

Did you know? The Aztecs considered hot chocolate to be a sacred drink.



 Check out Taco Chronicles on Netflix!

MUSIC!

Manuel Ponce: ★★ Estrellita ★★

The beautiful song!

Violinist Augustin Hadelich and

Pianist Charles Owen



Teotihuacán, Aztec Empire: Central Mexico

Carlos Chávez: Xochipilli, "An Imagined Aztec Music"

Commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art in 1940, originally for indigenous pre-Colombian Aztec instruments



Vicente Fernández:

Guadalajara

Los Vega: Las Poblanas



Gabriela Ortiz:

⚽ Atlas Pumas ⚽

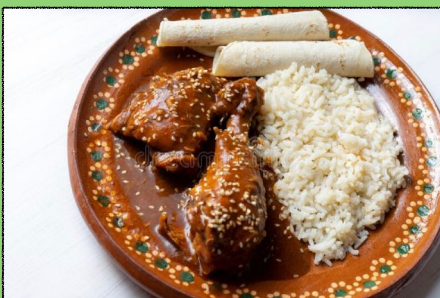
For violin and marimba, inspired by a soccer match

Antrópolis

Inspired by dance halls in Mexico. The timpani has a huge part!

Lila Downs: La Cumbia del Mole

A little Spanish lesson through this song



Juventino Rosas: Sobre las Olas (Over the Waves): a famous waltz

One more! If you haven't seen the film Coco...it's
incredible.

To give you two reasons why we love it:

Un Poco Loco

Mama Coco, and why music is so magical 

Thanks for
being
curious!



"NANCARROW'S ANIMALS" ACTIVITY SHEET

Polyrhythm: Rhythmic Multitasking

Suggested Activities

Activity 1: Practice polyrhythms (try saying that ten times fast, phew!)

In our [video](#), choose one Aizuri member to follow, and chant their animal name with them! Karen, Ayane, Emma, and Miho are all chanting the names of different animals. Karen starts off with the word "octopus," Ayane goes second with "armadillo," Emma is third with "hippopotamus," and Miho is last with "yellow mountain lion."

You can do this exercise with friends and family members. Ask a friend or family member to choose a different Aizuri member to chant along with. See if you all can say your different animal names at the same time while staying in time with the video. Have fun with it! Try chanting the words really loudly, or very softly to create different textures.



The scroll contains the following information:

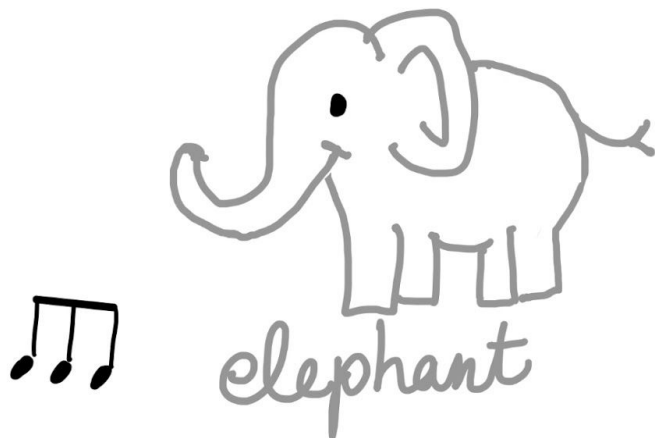
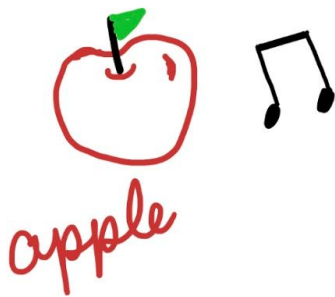
- Octopus**: Represented by three black eighth notes beamed together.
- Armadillo**: Represented by four purple eighth notes beamed together.
- Hippopotamus**: Represented by five green eighth notes beamed together.
- Yellow Mountain Lion**: Represented by seven red eighth notes beamed together.

Activity 2: Make your own polyrhythms

Get together with a friend or family member and form a circle. The more the merrier! Start by clapping together to create a basic beat. Have each person pick a word, and try to say the word in the space of one beat. Here are some examples to get you started!

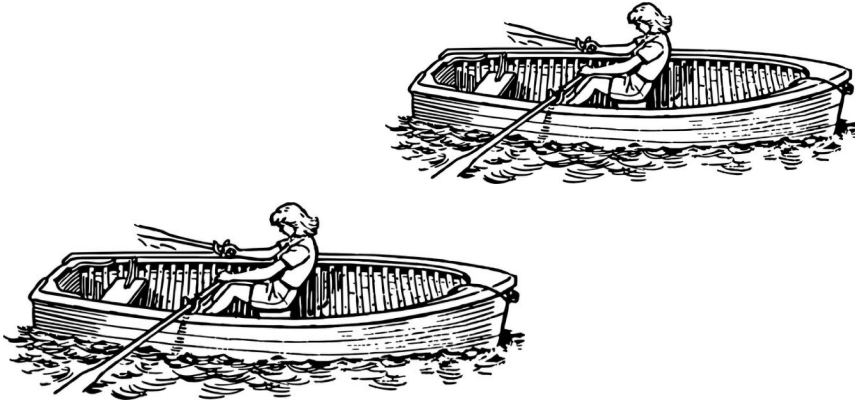
More Animals: Frog, Deer, Bear, Robin, Zebra, Panda, Dolphin, Elephant, Buffalo, Ladybug, Wolverine, Crocodile, Caterpillar, duck-billed Platypus, Bird of Paradise, Fluffy Bunny Rabbit

Things you can eat: Peach, Grape, Apple, Pumpkin, Strawberry, Cucumber, Nectarine, Avocado, Chili pepper, Pomegranate, Macadamia, Orange Creamsicle, Crispy Apple Strudel



Watch Party! What is a Canon?

A canon in music is when one person starts with a tune, and then another person joins in with the same tune a little bit later. It can also be called a round, like *[Row, Row your Boat](#)*



McLaren & Munro's short film: [click here](#) to watch Canon

This Canadian film introduces us to all kinds of canons in a visual way (there are NO WORDS used in the film!) that is oh-so charming and clever.

- A round: Frère Jacques/Brother John using blocks on a chess board
- Canon accompanied by dancing animated figures
- Finale: a man looks like he's acting very strangely. However, when the other voices (people) enter, we'll understand why he's moving the way he is! You'll even be introduced to the inversion of a canon when you see the man upside-down. If the notes in the original canon were going up, then in the inverted canon it will go down. Upside-down, or like a mirror image!

[Click here to see a Crab Canon in action](#)

A mind twister! A crab canon is a special kind of canon where one voice starts at the beginning of the melody and goes forward, while the second voice starts at the end of the melody and goes backwards. How does that make sense? Well, we do have *palindromes*, words that are the same when you read them forward and backwards. For example:

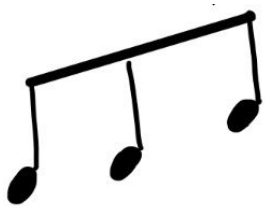
Pop

Kayak

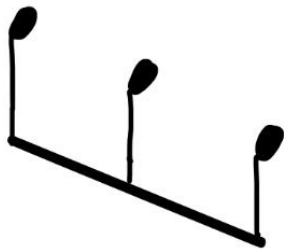
Racecar

A man, a plan, a canal -- Panama!

Although the canon isn't exactly the same forwards and backwards like a palindrome, you'll see how Bach is extremely clever. He writes music that makes sense both forwards and backwards and fits together so well that your brain will be doing cartwheels!



Original Canon



Inverted Canon

Nancarrow's String Quartet No. 3: Click [here](#) to watch the Aizuris play the whole piece

In the animation part of our video *Nancarrow's Animals*, you heard the **first movement** of this quartet. Like a canon, all four quartet members are playing the same tune and rhythm. What makes it unique? In Nancarrow's canon, each person is going slightly faster than the person who came before them. As you heard in our video, the **CELLO** is playing **THREE** notes per bar, the **VIOLA FOUR** notes per bar, **2ND VIOLIN FIVE** notes per bar, and **1ST VIOLIN SIX** notes per bar. Because the cello part is the slowest, viola is a little faster, 2nd violin is a little faster still, and 1st violin is the fastest, the 1st violin enters the canon last and actually finishes first! So the order of entrances and exits you'll hear is:

Entrances: Cello--Viola--2nd Violin--1st Violin
Exits: 1st Violin--2nd Violin--Viola--Cello

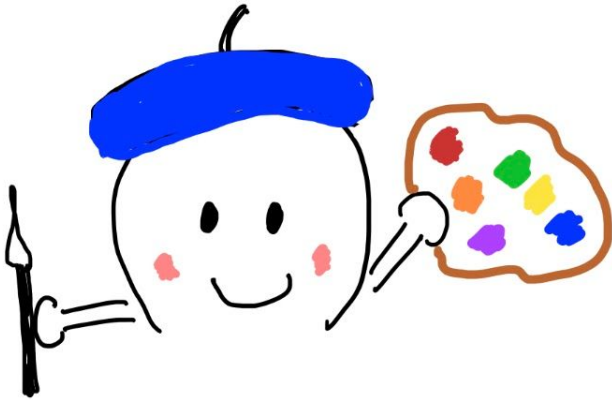
The **second movement** reminds us of twinkling stars. Here, Nancarrow flips things around: the **1ST VIOLIN** plays **THREE** notes per bar, **2ND VIOLIN FOUR**, **VIOLA FIVE**, and **CELLO SIX**. What does that mean for entrances and exits? Can you fill them out?

Entrances: _____ -- _____ -- _____ -- _____

Exits: _____ -- _____ -- _____ -- _____

The **third movement** is like the first movement. Nancarrow adds an extra twist at the very end so that we can finish together. The ending of this piece sounds like Simone Biles doing a triple-double (a triple-twisting double backflip), but in music!

Arts and Crafts



Dot to dot drawings

Each quartet member created a dot to dot drawing of their animal from the animation. Have fun connecting the dots and bringing color and life into the animals!

Shrinky Dinks

We used this to make the four animals you see in the animation. You'll need to bake these in the oven to get the final result, so ask a grown-up to help you!

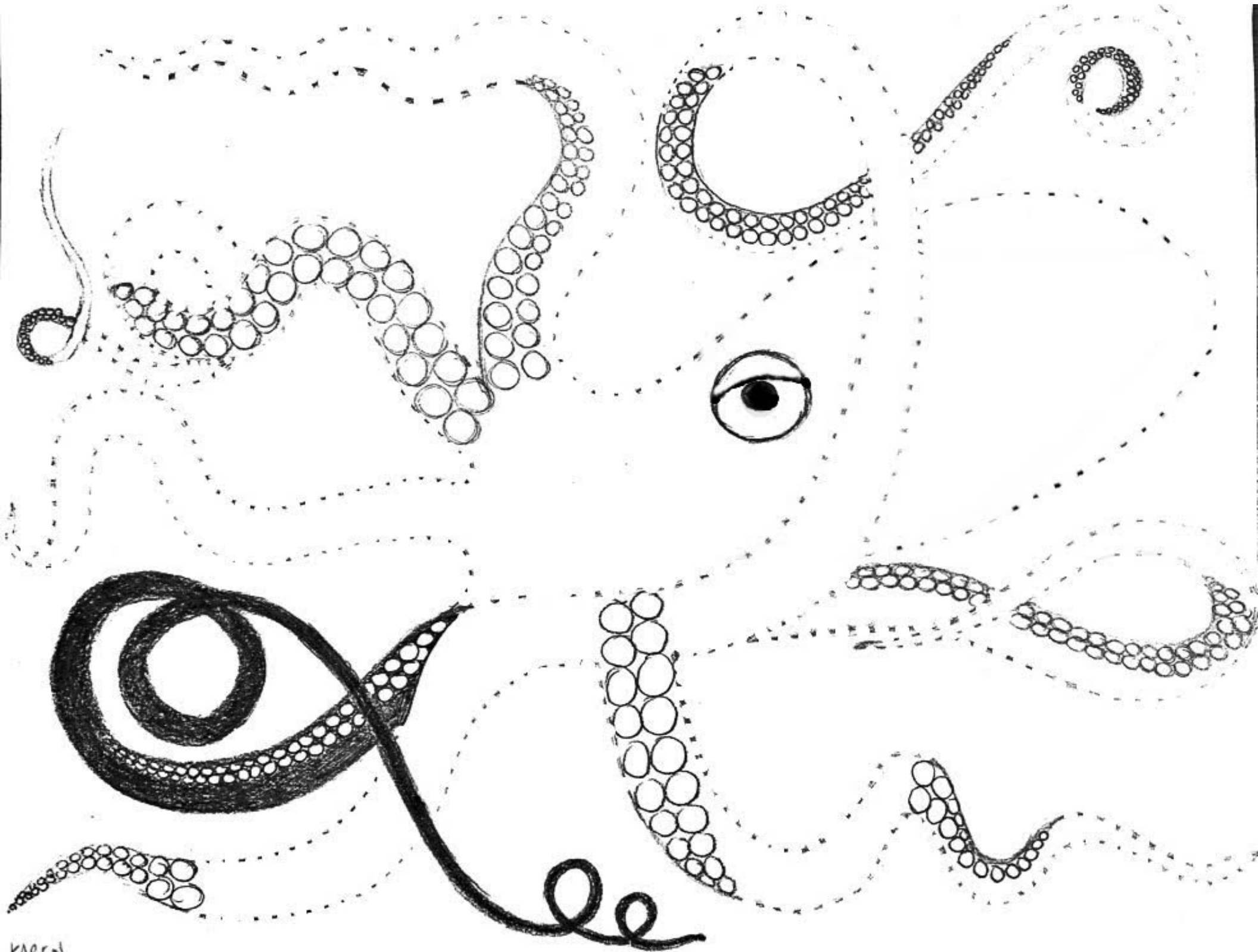
This is an [example](#)

Stop Motion Studio

Have you seen Wallace and Gromit or Fantastic Mr. Fox and wondered how they're made?

We used this app to create the stop motion animation you saw in this video. Give it a go!

To get you started, this is a [tutorial about the app](#), and this is a [general stop motion tutorial](#).



KAREN



Ayane

