

John Williams



John Williams was born in
New York, America in 1932.

Who is he?

John Williams is a very successful conductor, composer and pianist.



His father played jazz music. By the time John was 15, he had his own **Jazz** band.

As a boy he played:



the piano



the trombone

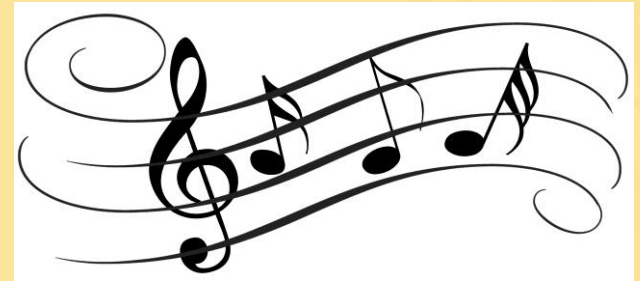


the clarinet

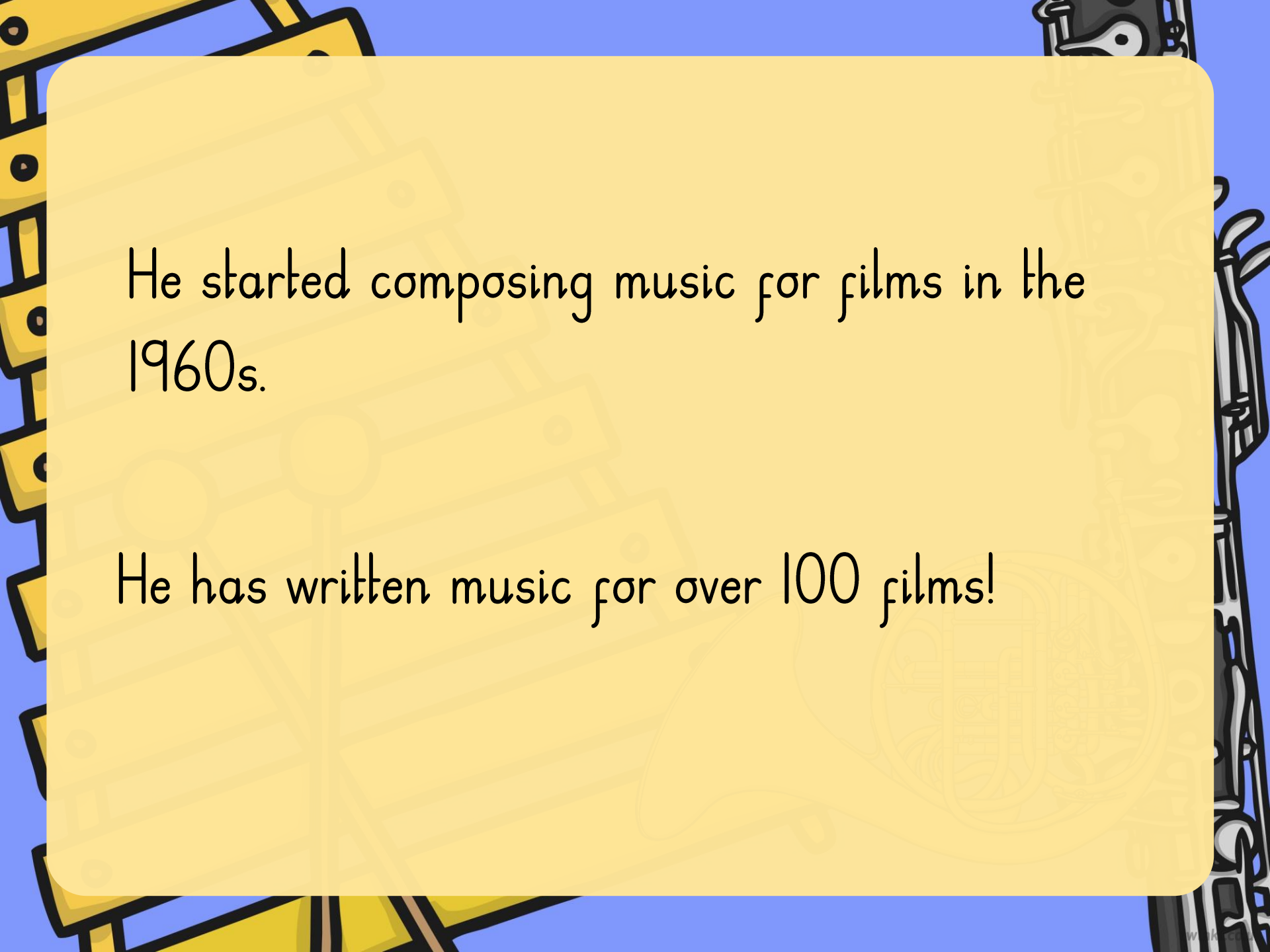


the trumpet

He went to college and began to learn **Composition** (how to write music).



After college, he was drafted into the United States Air Force where he had the opportunity to conduct and arrange music for the **Air Force Band**.



He started composing music for films in the 1960s.

He has written music for over 100 films!

John Williams composed the music for:

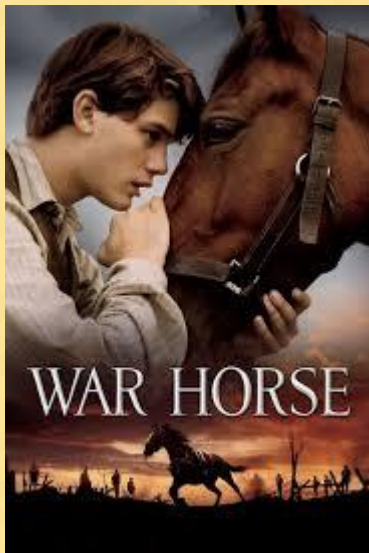


Indiana Jones

Harry Potter



Home Alone



The BFG

...and many more.

Harry Potter

Click on the link below to watch the orchestra play
'Hedwig's Theme' from Harry Potter.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTXBLYp7_Dw

Using a picture of the orchestra (see separate
file), point to each instrument as you hear it
playing.



Can you name:

- 2 different string instruments?
- 2 woodwind instruments?
- 2 brass instruments?

Challenge: How are the cellos being played at around 42 seconds? Look carefully.

Harry Potter

Watch the first 40 seconds of the music. Can you spot the **celeste**? It looks like a piano but has a *tinkly* sound.

Can you describe:

- The **dynamics** (loud or quiet)?
- The **texture** (How many layers of instruments?)

Are the **dynamics** and **texture** any different towards the end of the piece? Explain how.

Star Wars

Watch the orchestra play, '*The Imperial March*' from 'The Empire Strikes Back'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMvcCfs8mf8>

Which **family of instruments** are playing the melody? Can you name any of the **individual instruments** in this family?

Can you describe the mood of this music? How is it different to 'Hedwig's Theme'?