

## Horse Racing in Music

*An activity of "Horses and Humans: A Special Bond"*

Read the article, "Horse and Humans: A Special Bond" (Page 22-23, *What's Up* June 2021) to learn about horses and their special relationship with humans.

1. Pick out three cool facts you have learned about horses from the article.

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2. Horses have inspired humans to compose great music. *Horse Racing* is a famous piece composed by Huang Hai Huai in 1964, for the er-hu (a Chinese musical instrument). It describes the horse-racing event in a traditional Mongolian Naadam Festival. Listen to two versions of it and simply enjoy the music.

a) The first version of "Horse Racing" was arranged by Fu Renchang and performed exuberantly by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra in 2020. Feel the thundering excitement of the race as different instruments combine to sound like horses in action during this colourful festival.

➤ <https://youtu.be/aUHHdHeFtoM>

b) The second version of *Horse Racing* was performed as a father-son duet at Carnegie Hall in 2016. Lang Lang plays the piano while his father, Lang Guoren, is on his erhu. Look out for how the erhu is played in totally unexpected ways in this incredible performance!

➤ <https://youtu.be/fyJemf8hwkU>

c) Now, fill in the table below in point form.

My Responses	First Version (Orchestra)	Second Version (Duet)
What I picture in my mind when I hear the music		
How the music makes me feel		
What I like most about the performance		

3. Between the two versions of *Horse Racing*, which do you personally prefer? Share your thoughts with your class.