War and Music Topic

Song Story 6: 19 by Paul Hardcastle

This song was number 1 in the charts for several weeks in 1985 and is about the Vietnam War. It uses a mixture of music, speaking and sound effects to create what could be described as a soundscape.

Aim: To listen with focus to musical elements; To compose a soundscape

Music Skills: Listening; Composing

Resources: The lyrics of the song; a recording of the song

Activities: Listening; Composing a soundscape/sound design

★ Listen to the recording and mark on the lyrics sheet where you hear the following:

1. Where this rhythm occurs:
2. Where you hear an air raid siren
3. Where there is a scream
4. Where there is a bugle call
5. Where singers sing in harmony
6. A line that is a recording of an actual soldier speaking
7. A section of music with no bass line and no tuned instruments
8. Where the first bit of any sort of melody starts
9. A section where there is speaking, a melody a bass line and percussion
10. The first singing of a melody in the song

★ Do you think the composer of this song was for or against the Vietnam War?

★ Give five reasons for your answer.

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★ Create a soundscape or political song about a current or recent war that's going on somewhere in the world.

★ Use a mixture of quotes about the war, music and sound effects to express a particular opinion.

★ How will you link all your ideas together? Paul Hardcastle uses repeating rhythmic accompaniment patterns and the n-n-n-n-nineteen vocal motif. You could do something similar…..or think of something entirely new.