

Prawns and Mirabelles

A sequence of 10 pieces of music scored for piano, flute, bassoon and cello.

It's based on when my wife, Kerstin, was 6 years old, and was sent off to an island off the North Sea coast of Germany for recuperation having been misdiagnosed with bronchitis. She took her teddy, Wuschel, but had nobody else with her. It wasn't an especially pleasant experience, but she did discover that she really liked prawns and mirabelles, which she hadn't come across before. (Unfortunately that was her first and last prawns experience as her sea-food allergy means she's not able to eat them). The music is based on her time on the island.

The different parts are as follows:

- 1) **To the Island** - she hasn't been away from home or even on a train before so she's very excited and a bit nervous.
 - 2) **Waking in a New Place** - a simple beat a bit like a heart-beat or the ticking of a clock with sounds of the sea. Time to greet the first day with a short flute solo.
 - 3) **Wuschel the Bear** - Wuschel's there, so everything's kind of OK.
 - 4) **Alone** - Wuschel is taken off her (noisy bear, disturbing other children!). Alone, homesick, not sleeping.....
- Sounds of the sea, gulls, flute notes thinking of Wuschel, then.....reunited!
- 5) **Best Friends Waltz** - Wuschel returned. A waltz round the room
 - 6) **Prawns** – cello and bassoon “prawning about”.
 - 7) **Playtime 1** – children's voices begin a slightly exotic and frantic playtime.
 - 8) **Playtime 2** – a bit happier and more comfortable playing with others.
 - 9) **Mirabelles** – delicious mirabelles. Simple pleasures.
 - 10) **Postcard** – a postcard from your past. A recurrent memory.....the sea, waking in a new place.....thinking back.