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Why every cloud has a musical lining

IF YOU thought our nation's obsession with the weather manifested itself only in conversations at the bus stop, then think again.

Researchers from Oxford and Reading universities have catalogued the number of times weather has appeared as a theme in classical music since the 17th century – and found that British composers are twice

as likely to have written music with a meteorological theme as their foreign counterparts.

The study found storms to be the most popular in music, followed by wind. Tempests abound in Benjamin Britten's *Four Sea Interludes*, and a gale rages in Vaughn Williams' *Sinfonia Antarctica*. Proof that our depressing climate has inspired more than just grumbling.

