

Listening Task #2 - Chamber Ensembles

Complete this in your own time and submit it as a file on your wix.
Before editing make sure you "save as" your own file so you don't overwrite anyone else's work.

Listen to the three pieces and answer the questions: (If you don't have a spotify account search the song on Youtube).

The Nutcracker Suite Op.71 [Here](#)

1. What/how many instruments make up this ensemble?

There are four instruments in this ensemble.

2. Describe the sound production of the featured ensembles

Classical instruments being played traditionally.

3. Outline the main roles of each instrument/part:

1. Melody played on flute trio with harmonizing

2. Bassline played by trombone

3. Would you describe the work as monophonic/homophonic/polyphonic texture and why?

Homophonic. There are no additional melodies playing, so it is not polyphonic, and there is harmonizing, so it's not monophonic, so it therefore has to be homophonic.

5. Identify 2 compositional techniques that are used by the arranger and explain how it creates interest in the work.

Big Crescendo at 0:42 in the piece

Sudden pitch change in melody creates a climax

With or Without You [Here](#)

1. Explain how the performers explore the range of the cello throughout the work

Different types of sound production – plucking and bowing.
Pitches of cello range in this song

2. Listening to the bassline:

D A B G, a commonly used chord or bass progression in pop music

a. Describe the use of a bassline throughout the work does it stay the same, does it change?

It remains the same progression.

b. How is it used to create dynamic changes?

Other layers of cello harmonizing are added, volume increase and offbeat incorporated.

c. What is the effect of it on the pulse?

Makes the song have more interesting layers. ?

3. Describe the various ways the performers are creating sound and how does that create contrast in the ensemble?

Toccata & Fugue in D Minor [Here](#)

1. Does this piece feature a steady pulse?

Yes. But not at the introduction.

2. How does the ensemble establish the tempo throughout the piece - think about the role of melody, accompaniment, unison & solo sections?

As the climax of the piece reaches, it gets faster and faster, a bit like "Can-Can" by Offenbach.

3. Suggest the possible brass instruments used in this ensemble.

two trumpets, tuba, French horn and trombone

4. How does the instrumentation create;

b. Unity within the ensemble?

All being brass instruments, the similar tone colour creates a good blend

c. Contrast within the ensemble?

The large range of pitches from different brass instruments.

5. Describe the tone colour of the ensemble

Brassy!