

Music

Topic: Hector Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique–

Context, structure, sonority and melody

Year Group: 12/13



Beckfoot				Conte	kt, structure, sonority and melody			Succ	
1. Context and structure				Melody		4. 1	Key vocabula	ary	
	Hect or Berli oz	French composer crucial in development of Romantic music. Wrote on a large scale, increasing orchestra size and performance techniques.	1	Idee fixe	A repeated musical idea that keeps returning throughout. The whole symphony is based on this.	1	Romanti c period	1800s, known for the development of instruments and expressiveness.	
1			2	First subject	The first subject is the idee fixe, first seen in bar 72. Opens with a rise of a 4 th , then a 6 th and then descends by step.		Program		
		Mostly self-taught until he pursued career in composition at the Paris Conservatoire, where he was inspired by	3	Second subject	Shares similarities with the idee fixe. Starts with long note, leap of 4 th and 6 th but then descends with two note sigh effects.	2	me Music	story. In this case the story of a talented artist with a lively imagination who has poisoned himself with opium in the depths	
	Intro	Beethoven's compositions. A long, slow introduction in		Counter melodies	Secondary melodies. These are based on ascending and descending arpeggios. E.g. bar 30-34/			of despair because of hopeless love.	
2	ducti on	ternary form. Bar 1-2 intro. A is bar 3-16, B is bar 17-27 and Av is bar 28-42. Coda bar 43-63.	5	Sequence	Melodic material repeating at a higher or lower pitch. E.g. Ascending sequence in bar 94.		ent	An independent section in a longer piece of music. Our piece is in five movements, which is unusual for a symphony, we study the first.	
3	Link	Bar 64-71 acts as a link between the intro and the	6	Chromatic melodies	Melodies that move in semitones. For example bar 107 and 198, 439 and 443.	3			
		exposition.	7	Repetition	Melodic ideas repeat to create tension. E.g. bar 146		Sonata	A common structure in the Classical era and later. Consists of expositions, development, recapitulation and coda. Berlioz	
4	Expo sitio	The first time the main musical material is introduced. Bar 71-	8	Extreme leaps	Some sections with large leaps in the melodic line. E.g. Bar 226-7 in Violin 2.	4	Form		
	n	167.	3. Sonority – How the instruments are used					adds a long intro and coda.	
5	Deve lopm ent	Musical ideas are developed through various means. For example musical ideas passed around the ensemble. Bar 166- 231.	1	Orchestra	Orchestra A large group of performers playing a variety of instruments. Berioz uses a very large Orchestra for the time.		Subject	The main musical ideas used in a piece in Sonata form. Ours has	
			2	String writing	Uses advanced techniques including con sordini (mute), punta d'arco (point of bow), pizzicato and con arco,		Appoggi	two. A 'leaning' dissonant note that	
	Reca	The main ideas return, and		0	double stopping, tremelo and divisi.		atura	comes before the chord and	
6	pitua tion	develop material further. Bar 232-474.	3	Timp writing	Uses both sponge and leather drumstick heads and drum rolls.			resolves onto it.	
7	Coda	The end of the recapitulation. Ours is from 475-end.	4	Performa nce directions	Lots of detail given by Berlioz – romantic feature. Includes semi-staccato, portato, legato and staccato.				

Other points of interest: Increased orchestral size and techniques; Programme music; Treatment of the symphony; How the music reflects the narrative; Idee fixe



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Topic: Hector Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique– Texture, Harmony and Tonality, Tempo, metre and

rhythm.

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5. Texture					7.	Harmony and	Tonality		8. Key vocabulary		
1	Homophonic	Homophonic		An accompaniment that moves together, often in block chords – for example the woodwind at the opening.		C minor	The home key of the piece – uses 3 flats.		1	Main Texture	The texture throughout is varied and changes frequently.
2	Monophonic textur	Monophonic texture		One part only. E.g. bar 7 and 505.		C major	The tonic major key – used frequently. E.g. bar 61 and the			Largo	A slow tempo. Seen in
\vdash	Unison		Different lines playing the same music at the		\mathbf{H}		end.	2	0	the opening.	
3	Unison		same pitch. E.g. bar 72 when the idee fixe is first used.		3		Piece modulates to both related and unrelated keys	3	4/4	Simple quadruple time.	
					-	Modulati ons	including Ab major (42 and 133), G major (150), E minor (155) and G major (166).	4	2/4	Simple duple time	
4	Octaves	Octaves		ving an octave apart. E.g. bar 166 in ngs.				5	Rests and pauses	Used in the intro to fragment the melody lines.	
5	Dialogue		Motifs excha overlapping.	anged between parts without . E.g. bar 36.	4	Pedal	A sustained or pulsating note sounded against changing		6	Homorhyt hm	All parts play the same rhythm. Bar 1.
6	Melody dominated homophony		A tune with o	clear accompaniment. E.g. bar 92.			harmonies. Uses 46).	armonies. Uses tonic (in bar 6).	7	Highly varied	Includes quaver (b1) and crotchet triplets (b358),
7	Homophonic chord texture	Homophonic chordal texture		All instruments move together in chords. The best example is from bar 511.		4-3 suspensi on	Temporary disso as the 4 th degree falls to the 3 rd . B			rhythms	sextuplet semiquavers (b17) and all in between.
6.	6. Tempo, metre and rhythm					Dominan	Chord V with the 7 th added. Bar		8	Diatonic	Chords and melody belong to the key, not chromatic.
1	Anacrusis		e or more notes that occur before the first strong			t 7 th	146.	9	Functional	Music that uses traditional cadential progression.	
	N		of a phrase – used in the idee fixe in bar 74.		7	Diminish	Chord built on minor thirds. Bar				
2	Dotted rhythms		ung rhythm usually with the 1st longer than the . Used in second subject.			ed 7 th chord	224			Chromotia	Chromatic notes added
3	Long duration		e movement ends with rhythms of longer duration. . Tied semibreves in bar 511.		8	Dominan t 9 th	A chord with mo extensions. Used	d in bar 10 but	1 0	Chromatic harmony	c to chords to create chords not from the main key.
4	Cross-rhythms			ruments playing different rhythms that cross each		chord		't prepared or resolved.	1 1	Tonal ambiguity	The chromatic movement of the melody and chords often hide the key.
5	Syncopation	Rhytł	r. E.g. bar 29 or 60. hmic device where a note is stressed on a weak		9	Plagal cadences	Chord IV-I, used at the end.				
Ľ		beat or between beats. E.g. Bar 43-45.		1	Perfect cadence	Chord V-I, used	, used frequently to				
6	Moto perpetuo crotchets		Continual crotchets to add excitement to the music. E.g. bars 198-227.			confirm key cha 110-111.	anges. E.g. bar				

Wider listening: Lizst – Les Preludes; Berlioz – Harold in Italy; Dvorak – Symphony No.9; Mahler – Symphony No.7; Mendelssohn – Symphony No.4.