

Music

Topic: Igor Stravinsky – The Rite of Spring – Context, structure, sonority and melody

Year Group: 12/13



1. Context and structure			2. Melody			4. Key vocabulary		
1	lgor Strav insky	Igor Fyodorovich Stravinsky was a Russian-born composer, pianist, and conductor. He is widely considered one of the most important and influential composers of the 20th century. Taught by Rimsky-Korsakov, Stravinsky's compositional career was notable for its stylistic diversity. He wrote in three main periods, 'Russian phase', 'Neo Classical phase' and 'Serialist phase'.	1	Acciaccatur a	A crushed note. E.g. Horn in figure 25.	1	20 th Century music	Music that went in experimental directions.
	,		2	Conjunct	Movement by step. E.g. figure 19 in the Bassoon	2	Folk Music	Relating to a particular country, in this case Lithuania
			3	Ostinato	A rhythmic, melodic or harmonic pattern repeated many times in succession. E.g. Cor anglaise at figure 22.			and Russia.
			4	Chromaticis m	Notes that move by semitone. E.g. Figure 17 in the woodwind.	3	Orchestra 3	A large group of performers playing a variety of instruments. Stravinsky uses a very large orchestra for a ballet, with colourful sounds.
			5	Mixolydian	A mode with all the white notes starting from G. E.g. opening woodwind figure in ritual of abduction.			
2	Intro ducti	Can be interpreted as a musical representation of the gradual awakening of the earth after the long Russian winter.	6	Motif	A short distinctive melody or rhythm used in different ways to form longer passages of music. E.g. figure 27.	4	Quintuple woodwind	A woodwind section with five times the conventional amount.
	on		7	Ornamenta tion	Notes that decorate a melody. E.g. figure 25.	5	Tessitura	The average range of a passage or voice.
	The	The celebration of spring begins in the hills. An old woman enters and begins to foretell the future.				Diatonic	Featuring the notes of one	
3	Augu rs of		3.	3. Sonority – How the instruments are used		6		scale/mode. E.g. melody at
	Sprin		1	Con sordino	Play with a mute. E.g. Cello at figure 10.			25.
	g Ritua	river, in single file. They begin the "Dance of the Abduction"	2	Col legno	Hit the strings with the wooden part of the bow. E.g. Viola at figure 24.	7	Fragmenta ry	Featuring small sections of a longer tune or section of the work. E.g. figure 15.
4	l of Abdu ction		3	Down bow	Move point of contact to the tip of the bow on a string instrument. E.g. Strings at figure 13.		Harmonics	A very high note on a string instrument produced by
5	Struc ture	Build up using blocks of sound, internally organised as mosaics of sound. Can be seen as through-composed to match the action on stage.	4	Flutter tonguing	An effect on a wind instrument to produce a fluttering sound. E.g. Bar 60 in the upper woodwind.	8		placing a finger on a string very lightly before plucking or bowing. E.g. double bass at figure 10.
	tuie		5	Glissando	Slide from one note to another. E.g. Violas figure 11.			
			6	Pizzicato	Pluck a string instrument. E.g. Violin 2 at figure 4.			

Other points of interest: Why was the work so controversial? How can features of European folk music be seen in the work? How are instruments exploited? What is the relationship between music and dance?



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Topic: Stravinsky – The Rite of Spring– Texture, Harmony and Tonality, Tempo, metre and rhythm.

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5. Texture			
1	Countermelody	A secondary melody that is heard alongside the main one. E.g. figure 29 in trumpets and cello.	
2	Fragments	A short segment of a melody that can be repeated and manipulated. E.g. Figure 29.	
3	Homophonic	Melody and accompaniment. E.g. Augurs of Spring opening.	
4	Homorhythm	A type of homophonic texture where all parts have the same rhythm. E.g. Figure 43.	
5	Monophonic	A single line which can be played or sung by several people. E.g. intro on Bassoon.	
6	Polyphonic	When 2 or more different lines play simultaneously. E.g. main texture in the intro.	
7	Tutti	A passage where all instruments are playing. E.g. Figure 30 climax.	

6. Harmony and Tonality				
1	Atonal Music that doesn't belong to a key. E.g. Woodwind chromatic scales in intro.			
2	Bitonality	When two different keys are used at the same time. E.g. Augurs of spring opening.		
3	Diatonic	Notes that belong to the current key. Opening bassoon melody diatonic in Aeolian mode.		
4	Dissonant	Sounds that aren't pleasant when heard together. Often found in the piece, e.g. figure 11.		
5	Modal	A type of scale with 7 notes that is neither major of minor. Commonly used in folk and jazz music. E.g. use of Aeolian mode.		

7. Tempo, metre and rhythm			
1	Cross rhythms	The effect produced when 2 conflicting rhythms are heard together e.g. figure 15.	
2	Free rhythms	Rhythm does not fit regular pulse. E.g. Start of intro and augurs of spring.	
3	Polyrhythm	Conflicting rhythms played together. E.g. Bar 64.	
4	Quintuplets	5 notes in the time of 4. E.g. first three bars of The Augurs of Spring.	
5	Rubato	Tiny fluctuations in tempo for expressive effect. E.g. opening of Augurs of Spring.	
6	Syncopation	Emphasising beats of the bar that are normally unaccented. E.g. Figure 31 in Horn 4 and contrabassoon.	
7	Triplets	3 notes in the time of 2. E.g. Bar 64 of the introduction when polyrhythm is happening.	

8. Key vocabulary		
1	Homopho nic chords	Chord that move totally together, E.g. Start of The augurs of Spring.
2	Complex polyphon y	Many contrasting and difficult parts layered on top of each other. E.g. figure 29.
3	Two part texture	Music with two parts. E.g. intro just after opening bassoon.
4	Four part texture	Music with four parts. E.g. piu mosso just after figure three.
5	4/4	Simple quadruple time.
6	3/4	Simple triple time
7	2/4	Simple duple time
8	Compoun d triple time	3 dotted beats in a bar. eg. 9/8 at start of ritual of abduction.
9	Presto	Very fast tempo. E.g. Ritual of abduction.