



# MUSICAL CONTEXTS

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TRIED AND TESTED MUSIC RESOURCES - WRITTEN BY A TEACHER FOR TEACHERS

## The Musical Contexts

# SQUILT

## Listening Exercises Pack

# 1. Listening to Music for Special Events



a) Scan the QR code and listen to eight different pieces music. Each relates to a special event or is only used for a specific activity or at a particular time. Match up the 8 pieces of music with their events choosing from the special events listed below.

Piece Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Occasion Letter								

- |                               |                                      |                                       |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>A - A Grand Wedding</b>    | <b>B - Trooping the Colour</b>       | <b>C - At a Ceilidh or Barn Dance</b> |
| <b>D - In an Opera House</b>  | <b>E - American Independence Day</b> | <b>F - At a Carnival</b>              |
| <b>G - Dancing on May Day</b> | <b>H - A Cathedral Service</b>       |                                       |

b) Now listen to all 8 extracts again choose **TWO** pieces. Say why you thought they belonged to particular occasions. Which features in the music led you to make your choices? Give the number of each piece you write about and use the **Elements of Music** and other words, given in the box below to help you with your answers.

a Piece no.

b Piece no.

<b>Pitch</b>	<b>Tempo</b>	<b>Dynamics</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Texture</b>	<b>Timbre/Sonority</b>
<b>Articulation</b>	<b>Silence</b>	<b>Instruments</b>	<b>Rhythm</b>	<b>Melody</b>	

c) Think about a special event **NOT** listed in part 1 and how you would create a piece of music for it which would be appropriate. Describe this below using the **ELEMENTS OF MUSIC** (given in the box above).

Special Event

My Music for my Special Event would sound like

## 2. Listening to Funeral Music for Queen Mary



In 1695, the English composer Purcell (*pictured right*) composed some music for the funeral of Queen Mary. The same music was played at Purcell's funeral, just ten months later.



1. Scan the QR code above and listen to the opening "March" section from "Funeral Music for Queen Mary" by Purcell and answer the questions below. The printed music shows the main melody heard at the start of the extract.

- a) Name the **TWO** instrumental families heard in this extract.
- 1.
  - 2.
- b) Tick the box which best describes the final chord of Phrase 5.
- Major                       Minor
- c) Which Phrase starts and ends on a Major chord?
- d) The printed melody is immediately repeated. Describe **TWO** ways in which the music is different during this repeat.
- 1.
  - 2.
- e) Tick the box which best describes the **TEXTURE** of this music
- Monophonic                       Homophonic                       Polyphonic
- f) Give **TWO** reasons why this music is suitable for a funeral
- 1.
  - 2.

2. Now, scan the QR code and listen to another section from the same piece – the “*Canzona*” section from Purcell’s “Funeral Music for Queen Mary” and answer the questions below.



a) Choose **TWO** words from the following list which describe musical features you can hear in the *Canzona*

- sequence
- syncopation
- imitation
- ostinato
- polyphonic

b) Which of the following best describes the **TONALITY** of the *Canzona*?

- Major       Minor       Modal       Atonal

c) Give **TWO** ways in which the *Canzona* section is different from the *March*.

- 1.
  
  
- 2.



Queen Mary’s Funeral at Westminster Abbey

### 3. Listening to Coronation Music - "Zadok the Priest"



Scan the QR code and listen to a famous piece of music called "Zadok the Priest" by the composer Handel and answer the questions below.

1. What is the name of the only brass instrument that you can hear?
2. What is the name of the only percussion instrument that you can hear?
3. Name one woodwind instrument that you can hear.
4. How does Handel build up the excitement in the opening section of *Zadok the Priest*?
5. Describe the dynamics in the section up to when the voices enter (*bonus marks for using the correct Italian term and/or musical symbols*).
6. *Zadok the Priest* has been performed at every coronation in England since it was first written. What elements of the music make it so appropriate to such a special occasion?



Zadok the Priest crowns Solomon



Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation



## 4. Listening to "The Ritual Fire Dance"



Scan the QR code and listen to a famous piece of music called "The Ritual Fire Dance" by the composer Manuel de Falla and answer the questions below.

1. Which **TWO** words best describe the **TIMBRES** and **SONORITIES** heard at the very start of the extract, during the introduction?

Smooth      Calm      Buzzing      Golden      Chirpy      Melodious

2. After the introduction, the melody is played by an oboe. What instruments play the melody after the oboe?

3. How would you describe the dynamics in "The Ritual Fire Dance"?

Very Soft      Moderately Loud      Very Loud      Constantly Changing      Soft

4. How would you describe the tempo of "The Ritual Fire Dance"? (*give an Italian musical word if you can!*)

5. Describe what happens towards the very end of the music.

6. What percussion instrument can you hear right at the very end of the extract which finishes the piece?

7. Draw and colour a picture below, showing what comes into your own mind when you listen to "The Ritual Fire Dance".

## 5. Listening to Music from different Musical Periods



Scan the QR code to watch three videos of music from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods of musical history and answer the questions below.

### Video 1 – The Baroque Period – “Music for the Royal Fireworks” by Handel

a) Name three features that are typical of Baroque music:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

b) What do you notice about the brass instruments?



### Video 2 – The Classical Period – “Piano Concerto in A Major” by Mozart

c) Name three features that are typical of the Classical period:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



d) What ‘new’ instruments have been added since the Baroque period and what has happened to the size of the orchestra?

e) Which two instruments, found in the orchestra in Video 1 have now ‘disappeared’?

f) What is the ‘role’ of the piano in this piece?

g) How does Mozart create a sense of balance and elegance, typical of the Classical period?

### Video 3 – The Romantic Period – “2<sup>nd</sup> Movement from Piano Concerto” – Rachmaninov

h) Name three features that are typical of the Romantic period:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



i) What solo woodwind instrument plays the theme at the start of the extract?

j) What solo woodwind instrument plays the theme after the above instrument?

Out of the three pieces of music, which was your favourite and why?

## 6. Listening to Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony



Scan the QR code and listen to the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> movement from Haydn's Symphony No.94 in G Major; often called the "Surprise" Symphony. The music will be played **TWICE** and as you listen, answer the questions below.

1. What instrument is playing the melody at the beginning of the extract?
2. How would you describe the tempo of the extract? Can you give an Italian musical term to describe this?
3. Why do you think this symphony has been nicknamed the "Surprise" symphony? (think about dynamics)
4. What instrument takes over the melody towards the end of the extract?
5. How many beats are in each bar? Can you give a suitable time signature?
6. Describe what the violin is doing towards the end of the extract.
7. How does the texture change throughout the extract?



Surprise  
Symphony





# 8. Listening to "Golden Brown" by The Stranglers



Scan the QR code and listen to the opening of a song called "Golden Brown" by The Stranglers. This song has often been used as background music for films, adverts and even BBC news programmes. The music will be played **FOUR TIMES** and as you listen, answer the questions below.

1. Name the keyboard instrument which plays at the very start.
2. In the introduction, the metre changes every fourth bar. Write in or write down the time signature of the fourth bar. The time signature of the first three bars has been given to you.

3. The singer's opening melody is written below. Complete the melody on the words "throughout the night" in bar 9, using the given rhythm (or write what these missing note names would be.)

4. What is the interval between the first two notes of the singer's line on the word "Golden"?  
**Major 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **minor 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **Perfect 4<sup>th</sup>**      **Perfect 5<sup>th</sup>**      **Major 6<sup>th</sup>**
5. Which of the following best describes the texture of the singing?  
**antiphonal**      **contrapuntal**      **imitative**      **melody with accompaniment**

Teacher's Notes & Answers**1. Listening to Music for Special Events**

Extract 1 – E – American Independence Day

Extract 2 – F – At a Carnival

Extract 3 – H – A Cathedral Service

Extract 4 – G – Dancing on May Day

Extract 5 – D – In an Opera House

Extract 6 – B – Trooping the Colour

Extract 7 – C – At a Ceilidh or Barn Dance

Extract 8 – A – At a Grand Wedding

**2. Listening to Funeral Music for Queen Mary**

1. a) Brass and Percussion
  - b) Minor
  - c) Phrase 4
  - d) Increased dynamics (louder), brass play in octaves/up the octave/higher pitch, drums play more and decorate the melody.
  - e) Homophonic
  - f) Any two answers that refer to the elements of music *e.g. medium to low pitch, (very) slow tempo, notes of long duration, use of minor tonality, march-like rhythm, balanced phrases, use of brass and percussion timbre and sonorities etc.*
  
2. a) any two from "Sequence", "Imitation" and "Polyphonic"
  - b) Minor
  - c) Any two from:
    - Texture – Homophonic (chordal) -> Polyphonic (fugal)
    - Duration – Long notes -> Shorter Notes
    - Pitch – Medium/Low Pitch -> Higher Pitch
    - Tempo – (Very) Slow -> Moderate (Faster)
    - Instrumentation – Brass & Drums -> Brass only
    - Dynamics – Soft to Loud on repeat -> Moderately Loud throughout (except end f)

**3. Listening to Coronation Music – "Zadok the Priest"**

1. Trumpets
2. Timpani
3. Oboes or Bassoons
4. Any answer that refers to the "building up of excitement" *e.g. gradual crescendo/getting louder, use of a repeated rhythm/ascending ostinato over different harmonies, regular consistent bass line etc.*
5. Fortissimo (*ff*) or (*fff*)
6. Any suitable answer that refers to the elements of music *e.g. use of gradual crescendo, large choir/voices, fortissimo entry of voices to grab attention and mark the start of an important event, suitable for performance in a large venue e.g. cathedral, contrasting sections – quiet start then very loud entry of voices – as monarch enters?*

**4. Listening to “The Ritual Fire Dance” – Manuel de Falla**

1. Buzzing; Chirpy
2. The Violins
3. Constantly Changing Dynamics
4. (Very) Fast; Allegro
5. The music builds up in excitement and there are repeated very loud (offbeat) chords
6. The snare drum

**5. Listening to Music from different Musical Periods**

- a) Any three from:
  - Harpsichord (within orchestra)
  - Continuo part (played by Harpsichord)
  - Lute included within the orchestra
  - Orchestra mainly strings
  - Violins mainly have melody
  - Timpani are the only percussion instruments
  - Terraced Dynamics (loud and soft sections)
  - Imitation (between brass and strings)
  - Polyphonic Texture/interweaving melodies
  - Decorated and ornamented melody
  
- b) The brass instruments (trumpets and horns) are “valveless” (capable of playing only a limited series of notes)
- c) Any three from:
  - Balanced, elegant, ordered, light, symmetrical
  - Balanced regular phrases
  - Homophonic Texture – clear melody and accompaniment
  - Variety of dynamics – crescendos and diminuendos
  - Clear keys, cadences, and modulations
  - Fast scale runs (piano and violins)
  - More use of chromaticism
- d) Clarinets, Bassoons, French Horns now have “valves”, flutes now metal, orchestra has increased in size
- e) Harpsichord and Lute
- f) The piano’s ‘role’ is that of a solo instrument
- g) Balanced phrases, clear form and structure, piano is always the most important instrument or ‘role’
- h) Any three from:
  - Very Large Orchestra (huge strings section)
  - Lyrical Themes
  - Emotional feel/mood to the music
  - Dramatic
  - Descriptive
  - Clear Theme/Melody
  - Rich Harmonies – extended chords and use of chromaticism
  
- i) Flute
- j) Clarinet

**6. Listening to Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony**

1. Violin(s)
2. Slow. The movement is marked **Andante** but accept any slow tempo marking
3. The nickname was given because of the **ff** chord that occurs 'out of the blue' in an otherwise **pp** and **p** marked movement and gave the first audience a shock or a 'surprise' when it happened.
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Violins and Violas
5. The time signature is **2/4** (accept 4/4 as these are difficult to distinguish!)
6. The violin performs a countermelody or descant
7. The opening texture is Homophonic with a clear melody and accompaniment. The texture towards the end becomes more Polyphonic/Contrapuntal with the addition of the violin's countermelody.

**7. Listening to the opening of a Mozart Piano Sonata**

1. B
2. Alberti Bass
3. 4/4 (or "C" = Common Time)
4. Allegro
5. major
6. Homophonic Melody and Accompaniment – the right hand plays a clear melody with the left hand providing the accompaniment.
7. Classical

**8. Listening to "Golden Brown" – The Stranglers**

1. Harpsichord
2. 4/4
3. E, F#, G
4. Perfect 4<sup>th</sup>
5. Melody with accompaniment