



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								

A - A Grand Wedding

B - Trooping the Colour

C - At a Ceilidh or Barn Dance

D - In an Opera House

E - American Independence Day

F – At a Carnival

G - Dancing on May Day

H - A Cathedral Service

- 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.

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

- 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.

- 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

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

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

Very Soft Moderately Loud Very Loud Constantly Changing Soft

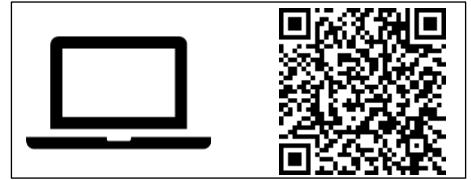
- How would you describe the tempo of "The Ritual Fire Dance"? (*give an Italian musical word if you can!*)

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

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

- 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 – “2nd 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 2nd 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?



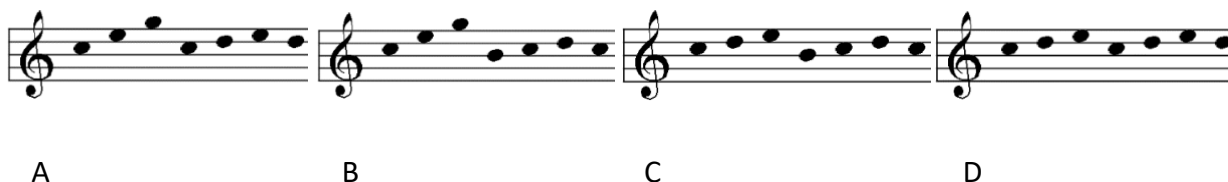
Surprise Symphony

7. Listening to the opening of a Mozart Piano Sonata



Scan the QR code and listen to the opening of the 1st movement of Mozart's Piano Sonata No.16 in C Major. The music will be played **FOUR TIMES** and as you listen, answer the questions below.

1. Which of the following outlines matches the opening melody?



2. The opening **LEFT HAND** piano part is shown in staff notation below. What is the musical name of this device?



Ground Bass

Double Bass

Drum 'n' Bass

Alberti Bass

3. What is the time signature of this excerpt?
4. Which of the following terms best describes the speed or tempo of this excerpt?

Allegro

Largo

Maestoso

Presto

5. Which of the following best describes the tonality of the excerpt?

atonal

major

minor

modal

6. Describe the texture of this excerpt.

7. Which period of musical history do you think this piece was written in?

Baroque

Classical

Romantic

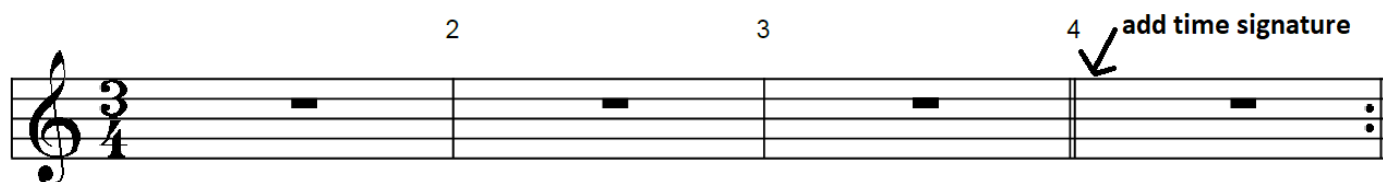
20th Century

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.)

1 2 3 4 5

Gol- -den brown, tex- -ture like sun, Lays me

6 7 8 9 10 (music continues)

down with my mind she runs. Through- -out the night.

missing notes?

4. What is the interval between the first two notes of the singer's line on the word "Golden"?

Major 3rdminor 3rdPerfect 4thPerfect 5thMajor 6th

5. Which of the following best describes the texture of the singing?

antiphonal

contrapuntal

imitative

melody with accompaniment