MELODY

Melody combines pitch and rhythm; involves a series of notes of different pitches, strung together in a combination of different note lengths; melody is the horizontal aspect of pitch; in vocal music, word-setting issues are involved in melody; involves themes, motives, riffs, intervals, range, register, phrases, duration of notes, shape of melodic line, etc, and devices such as sequence

- What is the **shape** of the melody?
- What sort of **intervals** does it contain?
- What **register** of the instrument or voice is used?
- What is the **range** of the melody?
- What are the lengths of **phrases** in this melody?
- What are the **rhythmic** qualities of this melody?
- What is the **tonality** of this melody?
- An **overall description** of melody in this piece?

Some possible answers and useful terms:

Shape: arch-like shape; circling around a note; jagged/angular; repeated notes; ornamented/embellished; ascending; descending; sequential; repeated at different pitches; continuously unfolding; fragmented…

Intervals: small intervals; big leaps; scalic/step-wise; triadic/based on arpeggios and broken chords; chromatic; repeated intervals…

Register: the material is played in the upper, middle, or lower part of the instrument or voice…

Range: small range; big range; the melody has a very limited range of just three notes (C-E); the soprano line has a huge range of over two octaves

Phrases: short; long; regular lengths; irregular lengths; contrasting; repetition of phrases; little or no repetition of phrases; structure of the melodic material can be described as AABB, or ABCA…

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Rhythm: short notes; long notes; fast flurries of short notes; long notes interspersed with groups of short notes; dotted; steady, even beat; swung; slow beat; fast beat; speeding up; slowing down; changing time signature; constant time signature; march-like/martial; dance-like; clear underlying beat; free-flowing; no sense of underlying beat; irregular beat patterns; regular beat patterns; repetitive patterns; constantly changing, no clear pattern; use of silence; begins with an upbeat…

Tonality: diatonic; in a major key; in a minor key; appears to modulate; appears to be using non-western scale or tuning system; modal; pentatonic…

Overall description: complex; simple; the character of the main melody is generally flowing, smooth and lyrical, with some contrasting speech-like phrases; improvisatory; catchy licks are repeated and varied throughout the trumpet solo; meandering; funky bass riff provides the main melodic interest in the song; the melodic material is more fragmentary in the second movement; the first section of the head features a highly-virtuosic melody; strongly accented; catchy; all the songs sung by this character feature lilting, child-like melodies; dramatic; triumphal

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STRUCTURE

Structure: the structure of a piece of music, or within sections of a piece of music. Structure can be seen on a small scale (the structure of phrases), medium scale (the structure of a song), or large-scale (the structure of a musical or symphony)

- What are the **small-scale** structures in sections of the piece?
- What are the **medium-scale** structures in this piece?
- What are the **large-scale** structures underpinning this piece?
- What are the **sections** in this piece?
- In which sections does **new material** occur?
- Where and when does **repetition** occur?
- An **overall description** of the form of this piece?

Some possible answers and useful terms:

Regular repeated phrases; ABACA; irregular phrases; verse-chorus form; AB; canon; round; fugue; turn-around; 12-bar blues; head; solo break; bridge; sonata form; development section; contrasting section; new section; recurring section; new material is introduced in Verse 2; first theme; second theme; ABA; coda; play-out; introduction; the piece has no clear form; the piece has a simple form consisting of clear and contrasting sections; the form of this piece is extremely complex; the fourth movement refers back to material used in the first movement……

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