TONALITY

Tonality: the way in which musical pitch is organised (or perhaps **not** organised) around a central pitch/tone, for example: Major and minor keys; modes; non-western scales; pentatonic scales; modulation; tonal centre; tonality is closely connected to harmony

- Is the **diatonic** system of tonality used?
- Is a **non-diatonic** system of tonality used?
- What is an **overall description** of tonality in this piece?

Some possible answers and useful terms:

Is the diatonic system of tonality used: piece is in a Major key; piece is in a minor key; key is firmly established with repeated use of Tonic and Dominant chords; key is not firmly established, with open fifths and fourths leaving a sense of tonal ambiguity; modulations occur….

Is a non-diatonic system of tonality used: non-western scale or tuning system is used; a mode (such as Lydian, Dorian, Phrygian) is used; piece is atonal (ie: definitely not organised around a central tone; NB: this is difficult to judge definitively unless looking at the score, so generally best avoided); piece is bitonal (ie: two keys or tonal centres at once); a central tone recurs, providing unity; the recurring use of A and Db creates a tonal centre for the song...

Overall description: unstable sense of tonality; stable sense of tonality; frequent changes of tonal centre; the first movement is firmly in A Major, whereas the second movement shifts between D Dorian and E Dorian…

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