

Listening Guide by W. Laughton, A. N. Myer Secondary School, Niagra Falls, ON

Means of Tension (Excitement)

Means of Relaxation (Calm)

MELODY

1. Short Phrases
2. Angular (lead-wise) tune
3. More dissonant intervals
4. Trills tremolos
5. Rising line

31. Longer phrases
32. Step-wise melody
33. More relaxed intervals (3,6)
34. Falling line

RHYTHM

6. dotted notes (uneven ratios)
7. Syncopations (notes or rests)
8. Polyrhythms (2 against 3 etc.)

35. More even note lengths

TEMPO

9. Fast, driving
10. Sudden changes
11. accelerando

36. Slower, more placid tempo
37. Gradual slowing off

DYNAMICS

12. Sudden changes in volume
13. sudden silence
14. loud volume
15. sudden loudness

38. More gradual dynamics changes
39. Less volume (especially diminuendo)

HARMONY

16. More dissonant intervals (2,7:4,5)
17. Aug/dim chords if loud
18. Non-chord tones on the beat
19. Modulation to unrelated chords

40. More consonant intervals (3,6)
41. Often major/minor chords
42. Modulation to related keys (IV, V, VI)

INSTRUMENTS

20. Upper ranges
21. hard tonguing ('t')
22. Strings plucked hard
23. Trills, tremolos
24. Brass 'edge'
25. Hard percussion (Tunable/non-tunable)

43. Middle.lower register
44. Softer tonguing ('dah')
45. Light pizzicato, muted.
46. Soft percussion (Vibes, brush, harp, triangle etc.)

VOICES

26. Crisp attacks/ releases
27. Vibrato
28. Upper range
29. Hard consonants
30. Different words sung at once

47. Slower attacks, releases
48. Middle lower register
49. More vowel sounds