

Worksheet: Some points to listen out for

1. What is the overall duration of the piece?
2. How many different ideas can you hear?
3. What are those ideas?
4. How do the ideas relate to one other?
5. How does the composer achieve unity in the piece?
6. How does the composer achieve variety?
7. Are there any surprises? Where?
8. Does the piece have a climax? If so, how is it made and when does it occur?
9. Can you hear any 'classic' structural techniques?
10. Is there a beat?
11. Is there a tune?
12. Do you recognise any of the timbres?
13. Are there any silences between the ideas?
14. Where has the composer placed changes in (a) texture? (b) dynamics? (c) timbre?
15. Is the piece programmatic or absolute?
16. How relevant is the title, in your opinion?
17. What mood is conjured up, if any?