

COMPOSER STUDY

discussion questions

Students should be trained in fruitful and careful listening. For young children, this may focus on pattern, rhythm and narrative. For older students, this may include score reading, discussion of musical theory and reading from texts about music. Students should be led to feel the beauty of line or form or design in the music.

TEMPO | *the speed of the beat*

- Is the music Allegro (fast) or Largo (slow)?
- Does the music get faster, slower, or stay the same?
- Is the music Adante (walking pace) or Presto (very fast)?

DYNAMICS | *louds and softs of the music*

- Is the music forte (loud) or piano (soft)?
- Does the music get louder or softer in some sections?
- Is the music mezzo forte (moderately loud) or fortissimo (very loud)?

TIMBRE | *special sound the instrument makes*

- Do you hear voices, instruments or both?
- What instruments do you hear (percussion, woodwind, strings, brass?)
- Can you hear a chorus?
- Do you hear soprano, alto, tenor or bass?

MOOD | *how the music evokes emotion and response*

- How does the music sound? Happy? Sad? Calm? Peaceful? Joyous? Exciting? Scared? Angry?
- How do you feel when listening to the music?

NARRATIVE and IMAGERY

- What images come to mind when you listen?
- Does the composition seem to tell a story?
- What do you think the composer had in mind or what idea is he trying to convey through the music?
- What does the music remind you of?
- What are the chief characteristics of the work?
- What form or shape does the composition take? Are there repeating elements in the music?

