

Area of Study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

1st movement from Winter – Teacher Sheet

Taken from The Four Seasons

Music by Antonio Vivaldi

TEACHING POINTS:

Metre

Tonality

Sonority (Orchestral Instruments)

Texture

Melody (Shape)

Dynamics

Tempo

Harmony (Cadences)

Musical Styles (Western Classical Tradition & Baroque)

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Chester Music has published 'Autumn and Winter themes from The Four Seasons' for classroom performance. ISBN 0-7119-4759-7

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1) What is the time signature of this piece? (Underline one).

4/4 (four crotchet beats per bar)

12/8 (twelve quaver beats per bar)

3/4 (three crotchet beats per bar)

9/8 (nine quaver beats per bar)

2) Identify the tonality of this piece.

Minor

Major

3) The instruments performing this piece are all from which section of the orchestra?

Strings

Woodwind

Brass

Percussion

4) During the opening bars of the piece, what happens to the texture of the music?

It gradually becomes thinner as the music progresses

It remains at the same level of thickness throughout

It gradually becomes thicker as the music progresses

5) When we hear the unaccompanied solo instrument for the first time, which statement best describes its melodic material?

It consists purely of scales (a rising or falling pattern of notes, usually moving in step)

It consists purely of arpeggios (the notes of a chord played separately)

It contains both scales and arpeggios

6) When the orchestra plays the main theme for the first time, what is the dynamic marking?

Piano (quiet)

Mezzo-forte (moderately loud)

Forte (loud)

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7) Which of the following keyboard instruments provides the basso continuo (the 'continuous bass' which accompanies by playing the bass line whilst filling in the chords)?

Piano

Harpsichord

Organ

8) Identify an ornament heard in the soloist's melody during the piece.

Trill

9) When all the instruments are playing together, what type of orchestral texture is used?

Monophonic

Homophonic

Polyphonic

(a single melody line) (melody and chordal accompaniment)

(independent melodies)

10) How would you describe the tempo at the beginning of this piece?

Allegro (Quick)

Andante (Walking Pace)

Adagio (Slow)

11) Which statement about the tempo of the music during the piece is most accurate?

The tempo is consistent during the piece

There are some slight tempo changes during the piece

The tempo changes frequently during the piece

12) Identify the type of cadence (chord progression) used to end the piece.

Perfect

Plagal

Imperfect

Interrupted

(V – I)

(IV – I)

(I/ii/IV/vi – V)

(V – vi)

Total / 12