

Mambo from Symphonic Dances from West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein

SECONDARY CLASSROOM LESSON PLAN LISTENING LESSON

For:

- Key Stage 3 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Third and Fourth Level, S1-S3 in Scotland

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1. Introduction (0:00-0:09)

The time signature is

The tempo is

Can you identify three percussion instruments used in this short section:

1. 2. 3.

2. Fill in the missing words

1. (0:00-0:34) The funky rhythm of Bernstein's Mambo is largely which demonstrates its dance style.
2. (0:35-0:57) In this section, you hear the orchestra play a short phrase, followed by vocal shouts. This technique is known as
3. Throughout the whole piece of music, we hear repeated patterns, especially in thesection.

PERCUSSION	CALL & RESPONSE	OSTINATO
SYNCOATED	LATIN AMERICAN	

3. Deeper thinking

Bernstein's 'Mambo' is from a stage show called West Side Story, based on Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet. It is a story of gang war, love, violence, betrayal and tragedy. The 'Mambo' is a scene in the show where the rival gangs meet for the first time, in a gym, and have a dance-off. Listen to the whole piece, and write a short paragraph explaining how Bernstein uses musical

techniques to capture the jazz and Latin-American style; and also to demonstrate the antagonism and hostility between the two gangs. Think about the following keywords:

INSTRUMENTATION	RHYTHM	DYNAMICS
MOOD	TEMPO	MELODY

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4. Odd one out!

Work in pairs or threes to choose two words from this list that sum up Mambo. You must have reasons for your answers.

JAZZ	FEISTY	RHYTHMIC	BRASH
CALM	SHOW	LIVELY	

Team up with another group. Make connections, contrast and compare, and select and reject the words.

Prepare to present your views to the class.

- What evidence do you have?
- Why do you think this?
- Where in the music does it show this?
- What musical ideas does Bernstein use to demonstrate this?

Your presentation should be concise and accurate. Choose one person to present the class.

Is there an odd word out from the list above? Which word doesn't fit?