

Habanera and Toreador song from Carmen Suite No. 2 by Georges Bizet

SECONDARY CLASSROOM LESSON PLAN LISTENING LESSON

For:

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

Written by Ann Barkway

1. Introduction, Habanera (0:00-0:07)

The time signature is

The tempo is

The instrument that you can hear playing the opening rhythmic phrase is the
.....

2. Fill in the missing words

1. (0:00-0:21, Habanera) At the beginning of the Habanera we hear a rhythmic
..... , before the violins enter with the first
2. (0:53-end, Habanera) In this section, we hear the subject, which is
interrupted times with an burst
3. (0:00-0:52, Toreador's Song) In the first section of the Toreador's Song, the melody is first
played by the string section, and at 0:17 is taken over by the, which
then takes it in turns with the strings.

SUBJECT	MOTIF	TRUMPET
ORCHESTRAL	FOUR	SECOND

3. Deeper thinking

An opera is a musical composition which tells a story. Bizet's Carmen is a colourful and powerful tale of love, lust, loss and tragedy.

Bizet writes his music to bring life to his characters, and this is particularly exemplified in his Habanera, sung in the opera by Carmen; and Toreador Song, sung in the opera by the bullfighter Escamillo.

Listen first to Habanera, and write a short paragraph explaining how Bizet uses the following to portray his character of Carmen. How would you sum up her character?

Think about the following keywords:

INSTRUMENTATION	STYLE	DYNAMICS
RHYTHM	MELODY	

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Listen next to Toreador's Song and write a short paragraph explaining how Bizet portrays his character of Escamillo. What is Escamillo like? Can you describe him?

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4. Odd one out!

Work in pairs or threes to choose two words from this list that sum up Bizet's Toreador Song. You must have reasons for your answers.

CUBAN	OPERATIC	QUIET	POWERFUL
DANCE	COLOURFUL	INTENSE	

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 Bizet 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?