

'Dies Irae' and 'Tuba Mirum' from 'Requiem' by Giuseppe Verdi

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 (0:00-0:29)

The time signature is

The mood is

The dynamic is

2. Fill in the missing words

1. (0:00-0:21) At the very beginning, we hear heavy chords on the andbeats of the bar; this phrase is then repeated, with the added providing blows on the off-beats
2. (0:22-0:30) In the opening section, the choir enters almost immediately with a melody line sung in
3. (2:15-3:20) The solo here begins a which is developed by the brass section.

OCTAVES	TRUMPET	FIRST	FANFARE
CHROMATIC	THIRD	BASS DRUM	

3. Deeper thinking

A Requiem is a mass for the dead. There have been many Requiems written over the centuries, including those by Mozart, Fauré, Duruflé and Brahms. The ‘Dies Irae’, a Latin hymn used in Verdi’s Requiem setting, translates as ‘Day of Wrath’.

Listen to the first two minutes of Dies Irae and write a short paragraph explaining how Verdi’s music portrays the ‘Day of Wrath’.

Think about the following keywords:

INSTRUMENTATION	TEMPO	DYNAMICS
RHYTHM	MELODY	

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Now listen to the section of music beginning at 1:55. Here the choir is singing the second stanza – “Quantus tremor est futurus” (“How great a trembling there shall be”). Write a short paragraph how Verdi’s music changes here, to fit the new text:

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4. Odd one out!

Work in pairs or threes to choose two words from this list that sum up Verdi’s Dies Irae. You must have reasons for your answers.

SACRED	TERROR	POWERFUL	REQUIEM
	CHURCH	DRAMATIC	SOLO

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 Verdi 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?