

'Ride of the Valkyries' from 'Die Walküre'
by Richard Wagner

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 (0:00-0:21)

The time signature is

The tempo is

The two families of instruments you can hear playing are:
..... and

2. Fill in the missing words

1. (0:00-0:21) At the beginning of the piece we hear flourishes played at different
2. (0:22-0:30) The leitmotif is written as a rhythm. It is an ascending
3. (1:24-1:39) In this contrasting section, you twice hear the violin sections playing a descending scale

DOTTED	ARPEGGIO	OCTAVES
CHROMATIC	ASCENDING	

3. Deeper thinking

A leitmotif is a theme or musical idea symbolising a person, an idea or an object. The leitmotif is repeated, either in its original or altered form, at various points throughout a work to dramatic effect. It is often used in film music or in opera.

Listen to the opening of Richard Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries and to the four-bar leitmotif (0:22-0:30).

Can you identify the instrument playing this initial theme, and to which family of instruments it belongs:

Instrument:

Family:

Listen again to this theme within the opening section (0:00-1:23), and write a short paragraph explaining how Wagner's use of the leitmotif represents Ride of the Valkyries.

Think about the following keywords:

INSTRUMENTATION	ACCOMPANIMENT	DYNAMICS
	RHYTHM	MELODY

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. Odd one out!

Work in pairs or threes to choose two words from this list that sum up the first three minutes of Ride of the Valkyries. You must have reasons for your answers.

OPERATIC	INTENSE	FILMIC	CHAMBER
BATTLEFIELD		OPERATIC	THEMATIC

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 Wagner 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?