

## The Lark Ascending by Ralph Vaughan Williams

### 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 (0:00-0:15)

The tempo is .....

The dynamic is .....

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

#### 2. Fill in the missing words

1. (0:15-2:04) The opening section of the piece is played by a solo ..... with a series of ascending ..... and .....
2. (2:04-3:02) The orchestra enters quietly, accompanying the solo in the ..... section. We continue to hear the folk-like ..... in the solo and in the orchestra
3. (5:15-end) The main theme returns, telling us that the piece is written in .....form

<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>VIOLIN</b>	<b>INTERVALS</b>
<b>TERNARY</b>	<b>MOTIF</b>	<b>ARPEGGIOS</b>

#### 3. Deeper thinking

Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending was based on a poem of the same name by English poet George Meredith. The composer wrote his work while in service with the British army in World War

One. Some say that the skylark could be seen soaring above the trenches. Listen to the opening of Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending and to the solo entry (0:15).

Identify the instrument playing, and to which family of instruments it belongs:

Instrument: .....

Family:.....

Listen to how this solo theme develops before the entry of the orchestra (0:15-2:04), and write a short paragraph explaining how Vaughan Williams' represents the skylark through the music.

Think about the following keywords:

<b>DYNAMICS</b>	<b>RHYTHM</b>	<b>MELODY</b>
<b>TEMPO</b>	<b>TECHNIQUE</b>	

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

#### 4. Odd one out!

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

<b>PEACEFUL</b>	<b>ROMANTIC</b>	<b>IMPRESSIONIST</b>	<b>INTENSE</b>
<b>COUNTRYSIDE</b>	<b>STRIDENT</b>	<b>MEDITATION</b>	

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 Vaughan Williams 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?