

Volume 1, Number 2, November 2014

Group 6: music

Listening exercise

Sean Farrell

Here are some helpful tips on applying the magazine article's ideas to a listening exercise. Good recordings of all works are available on Spotify: Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic (Wagner), Carolyn Jones (Debussy), Jiri Belohlavek and the Prague Symphony Orchestra (Mussorgsky).

Wagner: *Prelude to Tristan und Isolde*

In this piece you will hear Wagner's use of counterpoint and extended harmonies. Listen particularly for the 'Tristan chord' at the start and note how the music evolves without conventional resolution.

Debussy: *Pagodes*

In this work you can hear Debussy using textures inspired by the gamelan: pedal points, counterpoint, ostinati, non-Western scales.

Mussorgsky: *Pictures at an exhibition*

Compare Mussorgsky's depiction in music of paintings in a gallery with Debussy's more suggestive approach to image.

This resource is part of IB REVIEW, a magazine written for IB Diploma students by subject experts. To subscribe to the full magazine go to www.hoddereducation.co.uk/ibreview