



Music

A Level

Transition Pack



Task:

Prepare a short presentation on Mozart's opera, 'The Marriage of Figaro'. Please watch some parts of the opera on YouTube and do wider research.

Your presentation should include the following:

- Synopsis of the plot in your own words
- Contextual information on the opera (when it was written etc...)
- Information on the composer

What to watch:

History of Music documentaries by Howard Goodall from the series 'The Story of Music'. Available on YouTube courtesy of the BBC, in 6 episodes: eg.

Episode 2: The Age of Enlightenment (Baroque Concerti Link)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMxsE8wawVA>

Episode 4: The Age of Tragedy (Mozart Opera Link)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvzXcxyyhc0>

What to listen to:

Choose a Baroque solo concerto to listen to in full. There are many different options, but here are some suggestions:

- Bach: Double Violin Concerto
- Vivaldi: Cello Concerto
- Purcell: Sonata for Trumpet and Strings (early form of solo concerto)

Listen to one of the suggested pieces from each of the following media composers.

Can you hear any similarities, or note the development of compositional style through the development of the media style?

1. Bernard Hermann: *Vertigo* 'Main Title', *Psycho* 'The City'
2. Nobuo Uematsu: *Final Fantasy* 'Prelude', *Final Fantasy* 'Terra's Theme'
3. Hans Zimmer: *Da Vinci Code* 'Chevalier de Sangreal', *Interstellar* 'Mountains'
4. Thomas Newman: *Finding Nemo* 'Nemo Egg', *American Beauty* 'Plastic Bag'
5. Michael Giacchino: *Ratatouille* 'Anyone Can Cook', *Up* 'Spirit of Adventure'.

Listen to one of the suggested pieces from each of the following popular music composers. Can you hear any similarities, or note the development of compositional style through the style eras?

1. Stevie Wonder: 'For Once in my Life' (1968), 'Superstition' (1972)
2. Jonie Mitchell: 'River' (1971), 'Help me' (1974)
3. Muse: 'Stockholm Syndrome' (2003), 'Uprising' (2009)
4. Daft Punk: 'One More Time' (2001), 'Get Lucky' (2013)
5. Beyonce: 'Listen' (2006), 'Best Thing I Ever Had' (2011)
6. Labrinth: 'Earthquake' (2012), 'Jealous' (2015)

What to do:

Do some performance practice on your instrument/ voice. You will perform a 10min recital in March-May of year 13 and this takes a great deal of careful preparation, so keep your performance skills going over the holidays. Enjoy doing it! Play pieces you have played before and neglected for a while or look for some new ones to learn.

Go to a concert. There are many performance venues around us in North Yorkshire, particularly in York, which have professional musicians from all over the world performing. Now that concert venues are opening back up again, take full advantage of this- they will normally offer very cheap (and sometimes, free!) tickets for students. Do a review of the concert- what did you enjoy most? What was less effective/ didn't hold your interest- why? Was there a piece from a composer you hadn't heard of before- look them up!