

ACTIVITY SEVEN: CREATE A GRAPHIC SCORE

Learning Objectives

- To listen to a piece of music analytically;
- To learn about different methods of notation;
- To create a score which represents graphically what you have listened to.

Resources

- A3 Paper and coloured pencils
- Listening equipment

Prior Learning

Some terminology such as dynamics and understanding of structure is helpful, however, this can be explained throughout the lesson.

MAIN TASKS

Introduction

1. Introduce different methods of notation. Explain that anything can be used for notation from the alphabet, to charts and symbols. There are two main types of graphic scores:
 - a. Those that convey compositional intentions (and therefore often have a key so that performers can read the score a bit like a map).
 - b. Those that are written in a way that are often very attractive, but give free rein to the performers' imagination without dictating the response. A Fantastic resource for Graphic Scores is the Notations Project by Theresa Sauer: [Notations](#)

Listening

2. Choose a piece of music from [Historical Context 21. Creative Responses](#) and listen to it as a class. Discuss the piece.
 - a. What structure does it have? Is there a section that returns?
 - b. How many instruments is the piece for? Do they all play at the same time?
 - c. What about the dynamics? Are there gradual changes in dynamics or are there dynamic explosions?
 - d. What do you think the composer is trying to portray? Will this affect the score you will create?

Creation of the score

3. Listen to the piece again. As you are listening sketch out the shape that you think the score is taking. This will be influenced by all the answers to the questions in point 2.
4. This time when you are listening, using a pencil make quick notes about where the major accents are in the music, and any abrupt changes.
5. Fill in as much information as you can onto the score.
6. Listen to the piece once more, and put the finishing touches to your score – remember it can be as colourful as you want!
7. Share the scores with the rest of the class – how many different interpretations of the piece are there?

Extension Activity

In groups, take one of the graphic scores and perform it.