

### Lesson 3. Set Works. – Psycho and The Duchess.



**Task:**

What is the film “Psycho about? What type of film is it?  
Who wrote the music, when?

#### **HOW TO LISTEN TO MUSIC IN DETAIL**

After A level music, you will never listen to music in the same way again.....

At A Level, you will be expected to listen to works other than your set works and analyse them aurally. You must get used to hearing things quickly and learn to draw certain conclusions from what you hear. To begin we will learn a 3 listening method to help you to listen carefully and in detail.

We are going to listen to “Psycho” -The Prelude and we are going to analyse it using the following elements which are similar to the ones you will have used at GCSE only now we are wanting much more depth:

- Dynamics
- Rhythm and Metre
- Context
- Structure/form
- Melody
- Instrumentation (sonority)
- Texture
- Harmony and Tonality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwq1XHtJEHw>

#### **1st Listening**

Sonority – what sounds can you hear? What instruments or voices?

Tonality – major/minor/modal/atonal. Does it stay the same throughout?

Tempo – fast/moderate/slow. Same all the way through?

Metre – Can you identify the time signature? Does it stay the same all the way through?

#### **2nd Listening**

Melody – conjunct/disjunct? Any melisma? Sequences? Repetition?

Harmony – Functional? Obvious cadence points? What are the cadences you can hear?

Rhythm – main rhythmic features – does it have dotted rhythms? Long notes/short notes – variety?

Dynamics – louds and softs – are they abrupt or does it have crescendos and diminuendos?

#### **3rd Listening**

Structure/form – In sections? Recognisable structure?

Tonality – any modulations? To related keys?

Texture – Main textures – Homophonic/polyphonic/monophonic. Contrapuntal?

Melody dominated homophony?

Any further details....

Discussion/ Reflection:

Do you feel this music is suitable for the opening of a “thriller” film? How effective is it at setting the scene? If you were composing music for this film, what might you do differently and why?



### **Comparison – “The Duchess”.**

This music was written for a film based on the biography about the late 18th-century English aristocrat Georgiana Cavendish.

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

Task: Listen to the opening of this film. How is it different to “The Prelude” from the film “Psycho”?

Write at least 1 side of A4 -focus on including musical details and evaluation.

I hope that you have found these tasks helpful to get an idea of what A level Music is like. Please do email me if you have any questions – [fay.graham@sjwms.org.uk](mailto:fay.graham@sjwms.org.uk) and I look forward to meeting you.