

Musical Elements and Mood

Elements are the building blocks of music. How can the elements of music *express the composer's meaning* for the music? **Listen** to the music and notice the following elements. Use the discussion starters for talking about the music's **mood**.

Tempo	Does the speed of the beat remain steady or does it change? Is the speed of the beat fast or slow?
Dynamics	Is the music mostly <i>forte</i> or <i>piano</i> ? Are there any other dynamics? <i>ff</i> ? <i>pp</i> ? Do the dynamics change? <i>Crescendo</i> / <i>decrescendo</i> ?
Articulation	How do the string players vary their sound? Do they only bow? Are the notes mainly smooth/ <i>legato</i> or short/ <i>staccato</i> ? Which works better for smooth and short? Bowing or plucking?
Instruments	What instruments are playing? What orchestral families are they from? Are there any families NOT playing?

Discussion Starters

- What is the MOOD of this music?
- If it were music for a movie, what would be happening?
- For what purpose could this music be used? (wedding, graduation, party, funeral, parade, etc.)
- How does this music make you FEEL?
- If this music were a painting, what colors would you see?
- What words would you use to describe this music?
- What do you like about the music?