

## 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 *forte* or *piano*?  
Are there any other dynamics? *ff?* *pp?*  
Do the dynamics change? *Crescendo/decrescendo?*

**Articulation** How do the string players vary their sound?  
Do they only bow?  
Are the notes mainly smooth/*legato* or short/*staccato*?  
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?