

Response to Tchaikovsky's Fantasy Overture for Romeo and Juliet


"Please listen to and express your thoughts in writing on this piece of music."

In the beginning of Tchaikovsky's Fantasy Overture for Romeo and Juliet, the velocity of the music is moderately slow, which sets a dramatic and sorrowful mood. The harmonization between the ranges of pitch that the instruments play, compliments the tone and speed of the piece pleasantly, causing the emotion created by the melody to connect with its surroundings and affect the world around it. When listening to this part of the piece, I feel tranquil and at ease, but also connected with the music. I picture a meadow filled with a variety of flowers, but they are all bland and colorless, which makes it seem like they are being deprived of expression and freedom. However, as the tone of the music begins to change, color starts to flood through one of the flowers, reaching from the bottom of the stem all the way to the tips of the petals. The soothing and melodic tone of the melody paired with the subtle crescendo of the piece, makes it seem as if the color in that one flower stretches through to all of the others, taking what was once a bland meadow, and filling it with life. I can picture soft reds and purples that contrast with vibrant yellows and elegant whites, as the connection between the flowers begins to grow, painting a flawless picture filled with beauty. As the piece carries on and gradually grows more dramatic and elaborate, I picture the flowers swaying in a soft breeze that slowly becomes harsher. I feel anticipation as I listen to this part of the piece, just waiting for the music to become more overwhelming. As the music turns more intense, I picture the harsh winds becoming accompanied by falling snowflakes, which are soft but at the same time harsh, as they cover the beauty of the flowers under a growing blanket of snow. The high pitched sounds paired with the growing speed of the music causes the piece to become overwhelming to the point where the falling snow becomes a blizzard, but at the same time, the blizzard is controlled. As the intensity of the music begins to calm down, the tone of the piece starts to feel more mysterious, but at the same time it also feels engaging, almost as if I am in an unbreakable trance as I listen to this part of the music. In my mind I picture a white blanket of snow that now covers the ground. It sparkles in the sunlight making everything look so perfect and beautiful to the point where it seems unreal, and becomes mystical. The lower notes in the music compliment the higher notes as the piece begins to become dramatic again. The crescendos and decrescendos of the piece cause the music to become overwhelming, but at the same time controlled in a way that prevents that piece from becoming too unbalanced. A new melody then enters the piece with high notes that seem to climb higher and higher, casting a magical effect that makes me feel inspired. The piece then begins to alternate between a dramatically and intense mood, and a softer and more euphoric mood. The music then settles down into a more sorrowful tone that almost seems to breathe and connect with its surroundings as one. In this final part of the piece, I picture flowers that are slowly wilting under the blanket of snow that covers them. With every note played, I can almost picture the petals slowly browning and curling as their vibrant colors slowly fade, and as the flower seems to reach up as high as it can and take one last breath, it falls and bends over before shriveling into dust.




Fantastic Overture

Initially this music portrays a sense of loss or sadness. There was a slight major shift in chord at 1:00 but after that it stays minor until about 1:13. It is almost like the sun comes out as it takes on a more happy uplifted tonality. It doesn't sound sad, nor does it sound exuberant, it is more curious sounding. Then at 2:18 the song takes a more cheerful turn. The minor triads are still present in the background but the pizzicato violins and the happier melody help lift it up. This is just the first minutes of the piece, but it carries on these tonality shifts all throughout the song, with various dynamics and emotions attached to them. At 5:30, the strings and woodwinds engage in a battle it seems, the dynamics gradually growing until it turns into a very powerful segment with the two groups. Tchaikovsky was always superb at using dynamics to bring emotion to his music, and at bringing out different instrument groups when appropriate. This was very present in this piece, especially during the battle of the strings and the woodwinds. I really enjoyed listening to this piece, and it is one of my favourite out of Tchaikovsky's works.



This is quite honestly one of the most moving pieces of music I've ever heard. I am sorry to say that I've never just sat and listened to it before, but am so glad that this assignment encouraged me to. You can feel love and tragedy— life itself in this music. It rises from the softest, gentlest melodies that make me feel fragile and young with emotions utterly exposed, to the strongest chords that pulsate with power and are filled with such strength that anyone in its path could be obliterated. The piece is full of contradictions— light and dark, naivety and maturity, weakness and strength— and it makes it so raw and real. It is genuinely astounding and awe-inspiring to think that such a masterpiece came from one man's mind. It is incredible how it makes emotion and art so synonymous. If I could inspire someone a fraction of this much with my art, I would feel I had truly accomplished my role as a dancer.



This piece of music, like the ballet, is a masterpiece on many levels. Similar to the story itself, it showed many different emotions. There were times when I felt energetic and optimistic, for it to instantly change into a feeling of complete despair. This quick turn of emotion is what made me in awe of this piece. To be honest, it heavily reminded me of our spring performance from last year. In that show, all of our dances grappled with different emotions people face throughout their lives. As a whole, our performance showed that not every moment in one's life is all sunshine and rainbows. But also to note that experiencing different emotions is necessary and normal. Having the contrast of both sides is what truly made this piece relatable. All in all, I found this music to be a masterpiece, as said before. It is hard to believe that

someone could combine such intense and opposite feelings into a single composition of music. However, Tchaikovsky did so, and just like the ballet, it has become a favorite of mine.



The music is mysterious and I imagine Romeo sneaking in to see Julia because he misses her. There is clear difference between mysterious music, more intense and angry music, and the one when it is easy to imagine their young romance and unconcern. For me you can hear that the beginning is a night time because everything seems more dense, captured by darkness. "Day music" is lively. It has character of some celebration. Next, the music seems more furious and in character of escape or conflict. But at the end we can hear almost cathedral music which makes me feel about a wedding. The music is calm and somehow dreamy in that part, it associates with the happy ending. The very last sounds are dramatic which, knowing the story, gives the idea of lovers death.