

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Teacher's Suggested Answers

- Multi-talented as a pianist, conductor, broadcaster and composer
- Classical training at Harvard and first experiences conducting Boston Symphony Orchestra and later New York Philharmonic Orchestra.
- Composition style for Musical Theatre, therefore classically influenced but also combines popular music such as – bebop jazz, Afro-Cuban jazz and blues.
- Notable works include:
 - On the town (1944)
 - Wonderful Town (1953)
 - Candide (1956)
 - West Side Story (1957)
- His musicals were characterised by use of a fusion of many different musical styles and a strong element of dance with extended dance sequences.

On the town – three sailors spend an adventurous day in New York.

Listen to “New York, New York.” Comment on the following elements:

Musical Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Jazz</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Ragtime Piano</i>● <i>Classical ideas</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Fugue at the end</i>➤ <i>Opening dissonance</i>
Representation of scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Quick changes of musical ideas - looking around/excitement</i>● <i>Dissonance/held notes - traffic/busy/noisy/chaos</i>● <i>Brassy - strong trumpets and trombones</i>● <i>Orchestral colour - percussion - snare drum - pizz. strings</i>● <i>Bright Major key and changes of key</i>● <i>Increase in temp at the end</i>● <i>Contrapuntal textures</i>
Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Intro + dialogue</i>2. <i>A</i>3. <i>B - NYNY</i>4. <i>Instrumental - dance/dialogue</i>5. <i>B - NYNY</i>6. <i>Dialogue</i>7. <i>A</i>8. <i>B - NYNY - Canon dance using 'B'</i>

Melody & Rhythm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Cross rhythms</i> ● <i>Syncopation</i> ● <i>Rhythmic displacement</i> ● <i>Off-beat accents</i> ● <i>Changes in metre</i> ● <i>Angular</i> ● <i>Vocal - repeated motifs</i> ● <i>Rising sequences</i> ● <i>Blue notes</i>
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West Side Story (With lyricist Stephen Sondheim)

West Side Story is one of the most original works in the history of the musical. Based on Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet, it presents a plot rooted in violence and tragedy, exploring the conflict of loyalties and racial tension in New York caused by a large influx of immigrants from Puerto Rico. It has a score which integrates ideas from opera, jazz and Latin-American music as well as extensive use of contemporary dance routines.

Listen to "Jet Song." What elements does Bernstein use to show that the Jets, in particular the leader – Riff (soloist at start) are tough gang members? Comment on melody, harmony, rhythm and metre and any other elements you think are relevant.

MELODY: syllabic, some angular writing, riffs, accents, use of tritone, ascending sequence, 'You stay a jet' - longer, on the beat with rests

HARMONY: dissonant - chord extensions and chromatic chords, some bitonality, ostinato bass against a clashing melody

RHYTHM & METRE: syncopation, off-beat accents, 6/8 syncopated accompaniment against 3/4 melody

OTHER: Harsh brass sounds - fills in lines, chorus mostly in unison

Listen to “America.” In this song the Puerto Ricans are comparing the differences between Puerto Rico and the United States. What features are typical of Latin-American music in this piece? Comment on texture, rhythm, metre, sonority and any other elements you think are relevant.

TEXTURE: Melody and accompaniment with an ostinato bass, antiphony between men and women

RHYTHM & METRE: 6/8 v 3/4 (huapango), 3:2 son clave, cross rhythms, syncopation

SONORITY: Claves, Guiro, Hand claps, Shaker, Castanets, Spanish guitar, High trumpet melody

OTHER: sliding/chromatic in intro (tropical island feel)

Listen to “Maria.” How does Bernstein convey the meaning of the text in this work? Think about harmony, rhythm, melody, sonority.

Maria . . .

The most beautiful sound I ever heard:

Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria .

All the beautiful sounds of the world in a single word

Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria

Maria!

I've just met a girl named Maria,

And suddenly that name

Will never be the same o me.

Maria!

I've just kissed a girl named Maria,

And suddenly I've found

How wonderful a sound can be!

Maria!

Say it loud and there's music playing,

Say it soft and it's almost like praying.

Maria,

I'll never stop saying Maria!

Maria, Maria, Maria.....etc

Say it loud and there's music playing,

Say it soft and it's almost like praying.

I'll never stop saying Maria!

The most beautiful sound I ever heard.

Maria.

MELODY & HARMONY: Conjunct, Tritone in particular repetition of 'Maria', Sequence, Recit style at the start, Word painting (Kissed a girl rises, Say it soft)

RHYTHM: Triplets against Habañera bass line

SONORITY: Violins double melody, orchestral colour from triangle and harp

Candide – Considered by some to be an operetta (comic opera of the classical tradition.)

Listen to “Glitter and be gay” and compare stylistic features with that of comic song “Gee Officer Krupke” from West Side Story. Think about melody, harmony, tonality, structure, use of voices and instruments and any other points of interest relating to musical style.

Glitter and be gay	Gee Officer Krupke
<p><i>MELODY: Chromatic, angular leaps, aah-ha octave leaps, scalic</i></p> <p><i>HARMONY: Dissonant opening, um-cha mostly diatonic, harmonic sequence</i></p> <p><i>TONALITY: Begins minor (C), modulates to tonic major then to Ab major - a tertiary relationship</i></p> <p><i>STRUCTURE:</i> <i>A - C minor,</i> <i>B - C major</i> <i>C - Recitative section</i> <i>D - Colouratura section</i> <i>Repeated with shorter dialogue A section and extended D section</i></p> <p><i>VOICES: Soprano solo using extremes of range, text setting is mostly syllabic, colouratura section uses lots of melisma, glissando</i></p> <p><i>INSTRUMENTS: Full orchestra, Cor Anglais solo,</i></p> <p><i>OTHER: Operetta, comical, storytelling</i></p>	<p><i>Some angular leaps, sequence, chromatic, tritone motif</i></p> <p><i>Dissonant and chromatic chords, Clear cadence points, Um-cha is chromatic, harmonic sequence</i></p> <p><i>Major (C) with transitory modulations. Final chorus modulates to Eb - tertiary relationship</i></p> <p><i>Intro/vamp - dialogue</i> <i>Verse - Male solos</i> <i>Chorus - (a)Officer Krupke & (b)dotted motif</i> <i>Repeats 4 full times and then last repeat no (b), short coda instead</i></p> <p><i>Baritone solos, chorus sing in unison, use of glissando, falsetto</i></p> <p><i>Heavy brass bass line, Off beat brass, Trombone slides, woodblock</i></p> <p><i>Vaudeville style - comical, storytelling</i></p>

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On the town – three sailors spend an adventurous day in New York.

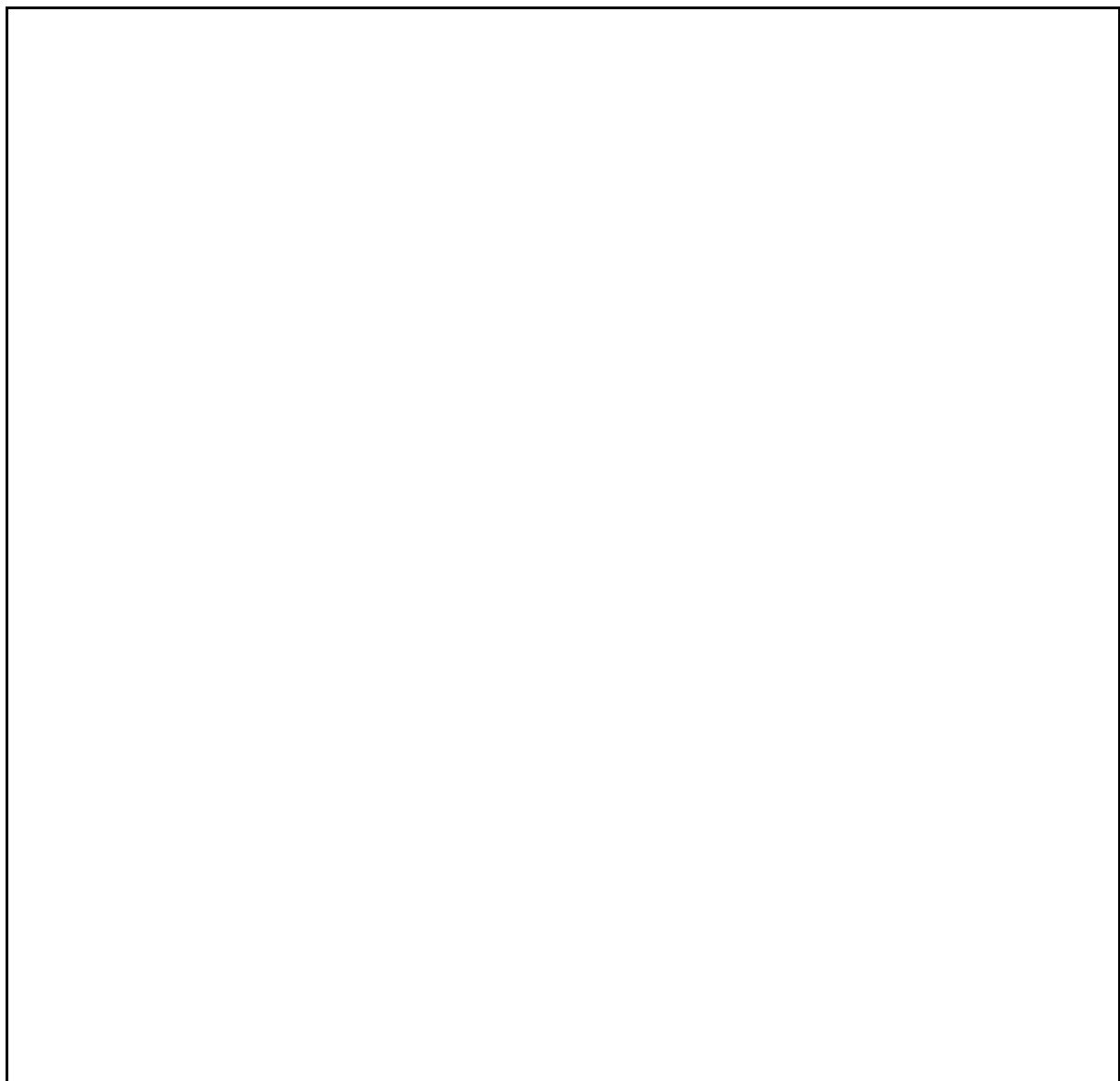
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Musical Style	
Representation of scene	
Structure	
Melody & Rhythm	

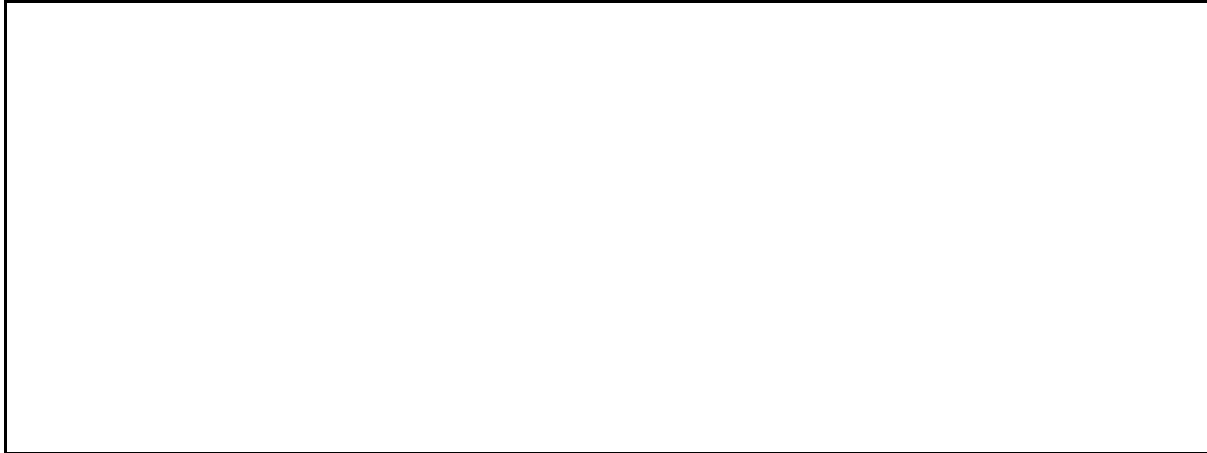
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A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write their analysis of the "Jet Song" based on the provided questions.

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Glitter and be gay	Gee Officer Krupke

HOMEWORK:

Watch the “Dance at the Gym” from West Side Story. Comment on the musical style in the following sections and describe how they fit with the action.

<p>Jets’ Dance</p>	
<p>Promenade to allocate partners</p>	
<p>Mambo</p>	
<p>Tony & Maria meet</p>	
<p>Bernado pulls Maria from Tony’s arms</p>	

