



Sample D

Music CBA: Programme Note





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Nuvole Bianche – Ludovico Einaudi

Ludovico Einaudi is an Italian pianist and composer. He was born on November 23rd 1955 in Turin, Italy. Einaudi started composing his own music as a teenager. He began his musical training at the Conservatio Verdi in Milan, obtaining a diploma in composition in 1982. He has composed scores for several films and television productions including This Is England, The Untouchables and the tv miniseries Doctor Zhivago. He has also composed many famous piano pieces such as Primavera, i Giorni and Nuvole Bianche.

The piece Nuvole Bianche was composed in 2004. It is a classical piano piece. “Nuvole Bianche” is Italian for “white clouds”. It was released on Einaudi’s album Una Mattina. Einaudi said about the album Una Mattina: “if someone asked me about this album, I would say it is a collection of songs linked together by a story. But unlike my other albums, it doesn’t belong to a time in the past. It speaks about me now, my life, the things around me”.

Although Ludovico is a much more recent composer, he has adapted many classical and romantic features into his pieces. For example the song contains a wide range of dynamics, long lyrical phrases and emotional expression, which are key features of the romantic period. There are many pause marks in the song which creates a slight pull on time which is known as rubato

In the section from bar 51 to bar 59 the song contains high notes, loud dynamics and a slightly faster tempo. This makes this part of the song very powerful and expresses a lot of emotion and is a very strong part of the song. This section also repeats in bar 88 to 96.



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At the end of the piece, there is a slower tempo with quiet dynamics with block chords in the left hand in the final bar has *molto rit.* written over it which means to grow very much slower with pause marks on the last notes so the song slowly dies away. This is another form of emotional expression in the piece.



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Mazurka in A \flat - Frederic Chopin

Frederic Chopin was born March 1st 1810 near Warsaw in Poland. He is a Polish French composer and pianist in the Romantic period. At 21, he settled in Paris. In his last 18 years of life he only gave thirty public performances, preferring the more intimate atmosphere of the salon. He supported himself by selling his compositions and by giving piano lessons.

A mazurka, or a Polish mazurek, is a Polish folk dance for a circle of couples, involving stamping feet and clicking heels in a triple metre. This Mazurka in A \flat is a Polish piece in $\frac{3}{4}$ time with an upbeat tempo of Moderato con Anima.

The piece Mazurka in A \flat was composed by Chopin between the years 1833 and 1836. It is in the key of A \flat major which contains B \flat , E \flat , B \flat and D. It was composed during the Romantic period. Some key features of the Romantic period are emotional expression, long lyrical phrases, bigger range of dynamics and Romantic style harmony's with added notes in the chord. This piece is full of Romantic features. There is a wide range of dynamics in the piece. Sforzando is added to the high A note with a rolled chord in the bass clef. The sudden loudness makes it very powerful. This strong sforzando with rolled chords repeats throughout the piece. There is also repetition in the song. Bar 1 to 12 repeats and then there is a change of melody in the middle with a repetition of bar 1 to 12 again. In the middle section of the song there is a change in melody with many accidentals played smoothly but gradually getting quieter.



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A main feature of this piece is the rubato throughout. Rubato means a slight pull of the time. There is dotted quavers, dotted crotchets and dotted minims throughout the piece. There are pause marks at the end of many of the phrases. In bar 32 it is sostenuto which created a sustained effect.

At the end of the piece there is repetition of a downwards scale like movement that fades away to the final note. There is a feature of perendosi and decrescendo. The song slowly quietens down and dies away to a minim with a pause mark over it to make it sustained.



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TEACHER ANNOTATIONS USING THE FEATURES OF QUALITY

The annotations capture observations by the teacher, using the features of quality, with a view to establishing the level of achievement this work reflects. The annotations and judgments were confirmed by a Quality Assurance group, consisting of practising teachers and representatives of the NCCA, the Inspectorate, the State Exams Commission and the Junior Cycle for Teachers support service.

TEACHER ANNOTATIONS

The programme note is very interesting to read and presents the listener with very clear musical features to listen out for, demonstrating a good understanding of the genres in the performance.

Both pieces are clearly placed within their historical context, with, for example, clear and concise details on the definition of a mazurka. It may have been interesting to explore the title of the Einaudi piece, why it is called 'White Cloud', and how these clouds are evoked throughout the music. There is a nice link between both pieces referencing the romantic era features influencing the more modern piece. The student explores romantic elements such as rubato, the wide range in dynamics and long lyrical phrases.

However, the student could improve upon the descriptions of some of the features in the 'Chopin' piece where they are a little unclear at times. For example, the statement: "In the middle section of the song there is a change in melody with many accidentals played smoothly but gradually getting quieter" is somewhat unclear and would benefit from more accuracy in technical language.

Very good content on the biographical details of both composers showing a high level of initiative in research.

OVERALL JUDGEMENT:



Above expectations