



Provincial Department of Education – Sabaragamuwa

Western Music

1st week - January

Grade 10

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Competency :- Ability to appreciate, value and reproduce creatively, sounds in the environment

Competency Level :- Understands Programme music

Programme Music

What is the concept of programme music?

According to Grove Music Dictionary defines as “Music of a narrative or descriptive kind”

As an example that illustrates programme music, let's listen and appreciate “**The 1812 Overture**” This overture was composed by a Russian composer Tchaikovsky to celebrate Russia's defense of its motherland against Napoleon's invading in 1812.

- The overture begins with the Russian hymn “ O Lord, Save Thy People”. Viola and Cello section begins and with the other instruments entering gradually illustrating the peaceful element of life in Russia at that time.

- The change of mood introduced by the woodwinds at this stage conveys a disturbing feeling as an indication of trouble approaching Russia.
- Next the enemy's approach is announced by the snare drums with the theme
- As the war develops the power of the French Army's attack is underlined by the opening theme of their National Anthem "*La Marseillaise*" supported by tensed ostinato by the strings.
- This is followed by a Russian folk dance theme that symbolizes the growing Russian National unity.
- The final stages of the battle is represented with an explosive climax using brass, percussion and real cannon with a quotation from the Russian National Anthem, "*God Save the Tsar!*" commemorating the Russian victory.

Activity 1

- Listen to the pieces which is given above and identify the similar melody while listening to the 1812 overture. Try to identify the instruments used by Tchaikovsky to express his composition.

Activity 2

- Listen to another example that illustrates programme music; "**The Carnival of the Animals**" by Saint Saens

This was a humorous music suite for two pianos with a string section, flute, clarinet and percussion instruments. A work in fourteen movements, each representing different animals from lion to tortoises to fossils.

Write brief comments of the following movements

Movement	Musical devices used to depict the main characteristics / sound /behavior of the animal
No. 1 Lion	
No. 2 Hens & Rooster	
No. 5 Elephant	
No. 13 Swan	