

The Orchestra for... beginners

Worksheet IV

Topic: The Romantic Orchestra

CLASS:

NAME:

Georges Bizet composed L'Arlésienne as incidental music to Alphonse Daudet's play of the same name, usually translated as The Girl from Arles. It was first performed on 1 October 1872 at the Théâtre du Vaudeville in Paris. Bizet's music consists of 27 numbers (some only a few bars) for voice, chorus, and small orchestra, ranging from short solos to longer entr'actes. L'Arlésienne is most often heard in the form of two suites for orchestra.

L'Arlésienne Suite No. 1 (1872, Suite of four movements - full symphony orchestra):

- I. Prélude, Allegro deciso
- II. Minuet, Allegro giocoso
- III. Adagietto
- IV. Carillon, Allegro moderato.

L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2, (1879, Suite of four movements - full symphony orchestra):

- I. Pastorale
- II. Intermezzo
- III. Minuet
- IV. Farandole

ACTIVITY I

A. The Farandole is an open-chain community dance popular in Provence, France and bears similarities to the gavotte, jig, and tarantella.

Which of the movements of both Suite No.1 and Suite No.2 reminds you Baroque Suite dances?

.....
.....

B. Why do you think Bizet used a small orchestra in the play and a large one in the suites? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of the two versions?

	<i>L'Arlésienne</i> (as a play)	<i>L'Arlésienne</i> (as orchestral suites No.1 & No.2)
Advantages		
Disadvantages		

ACTIVITY II

Listen to Bizet's "Farandole" and circle the correct answer a, b or c:

https://content.e-me.edu.gr/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=h5p_embed&id=1138852

LISTENING GUIDE:



1. Theme I is played by the: a) strings, b) winds, c) full orchestra
2. The texture is: a) monophonic, b) homophonic, c) polyphonic
3. The repetition of Theme I is played by the:
a) strings, b) winds, c) full orchestra.
4. The texture here is: a) monophonic, b) homophonic, c) polyphonic
5. Theme II (1st part) is played by the:
a) strings, b) winds, c) full orchestra
6. The dynamics marking here is: a) soft, b) loud
7. Theme II is : a) slackening (rallentando), b) accelerating (accelerando)
8. Theme II is played with:
a) increasing dynamics (crescendo), b) decreasing dynamics (diminuendo)
9. The texture here is monophonic, played loud by the strings:
a) True, b) False
10. The texture here is: a) initially homophonic and right after monophonic,
b) initially monophonic and right after homophonic
11. We hear both Theme I and Theme II. The texture is:
a) monophonic, b) homophonic, c) polyphonic.
12. Theme I is played by the: a) strings and woodwinds, b) brass
13. Theme II is played by the: a) strings and woodwinds, b) brass

ACTIVITY III

Bizet, although died young, composed many works, which are still famous. One of them is his opera comique in four acts Carmen. It is the first time in the history of opera where a composer for the leading role casts a girl who is not a noblewoman, but a simple gypsy. In its premiere (3 March 1875, Opéra-Comique, Paris) the opera shocked the Parisian audience and most reviews were critical. Carmen initially gained its reputation through a series of productions outside France but Bizet was dead to see it.



Imagine that you are for the very first time in a lyric theatre and Bizet's opera Carmen is about to begin. You know everything about the plot and all the arias of Carmen. In spite of the fact how excited you are, also you are very nervous because you do not know when the applause is permitted. Read the sentences below and put ✓ in the correct column:

Applause please!!!! Really... When do we clap?		
1. The musicians are taking their places/seats – (final) tuning.		
2. Shortly afterwards, the conductor comes on stage.		
3. As soon as the first notes of the <i>Overture</i> (= <i>Introduction</i>) are heard.		
4. Once the <i>Overture</i> is finished.		
5. Your beloved cousin appears on stage singing in the choir.		
6. In the first act, the <i>Habanera</i> , aria of the heroine Carmen, begins.		
7. <i>Habanera</i> aria just finished.		
8. Carmen's aria <i>Seguidilla</i> begins... Your favourite one!!!!		
9. The second act ends and the curtain closes for the intermission.		
10. The opera ends and all the participants appear on stage for a bow.		

ACTIVITY IV

Types of saxophones:



The saxophone:

- is a type of woodwind instrument with a conical body usually made of brass
- was invented by the Belgian instrument maker Adolphe Sax in the early 1840s
- is used in a wide range of musical styles

Look at the diagram below and:

- match the reeds with the correct instrument
- write down similarities and differences between the woodwind instruments

woodwinds

clarinet

saxophone

cor anglais

oboe

bassoon

reeds

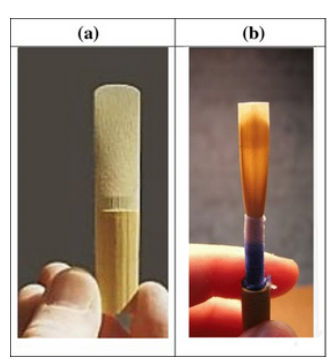
clarinet

saxophone

cor anglais

oboe

bassoon



	Similarities	Differences
Orchestra's woodwind instruments		