

Strauss – Sunrise

Short 5-minute task: Sunrise Listening Challenge

“What do you think a sunrise sounds like?”

- Is the music loud (***forte***) or quiet (***piano***) at the start? Does it change?
- Is the tempo of the music fast or slow?
- What instrument families are playing?
- What kind of feeling does the music give you?

Medium 20-minute task: Sunrise Soundscape Performance

Sunrise Element	Sound idea
Night-time	Body percussion heartbeat
First light	Finger tapping
Birds waking	High pitched vocal sounds
Sun rising slowly	Glockenspiels/chime bars
Full daylight	Regular rhythm using clapping and stomps

Longer 45-minute task: Performing and Composing a sunrise

1. A low drone on the note C
2. A rising 3 note trumpet melody, using notes C – G – C (where the last C is an octave higher)
3. Two chords – C major (CEG) followed by C minor (CEbG)
4. A timpani roll and dramatic moment using the notes C and G

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five measures. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Trumpet:** Measures 1-3 are rests. Measure 4 contains a half note C (middle C). Measure 5 contains a half note G (one line above middle C).
- Organ:** Measures 1-5 each contain a whole note C (two ledger lines below the staff).
- Full Orchestra:** Measures 1-3 are rests. Measure 4 contains a C major triad (C, E, G) in the treble clef. Measure 5 contains a C minor triad (C, E-flat, G) in the treble clef.
- Timpani:** Measures 1-3 are rests. Measure 4 contains a half note C (two ledger lines below the staff). Measure 5 contains a half note G (one line below the staff), followed by a series of eighth notes: C, G, C, G, C, G, C, G.

Composing a sunrise

- A quiet beginning using a drone and rising melody
- A crescendo
- A repetition with a thickened texture
- A loud, strong ending

Section A – Before Dawn/The Dark Night	Mars	Venus
• Quiet dynamics • Drone on a low sound • Slow tempo – slow heartbeat as an ostinato • Sparse texture with a rising melody	• Crescendo • Add more instruments/sounds gradually over the using pitches which gradually get higher • Clearer sense of a beat with repeated rhythms • Increase in tempo • Make the melody rise higher – like the sun in the sky	• Loud dynamics • Lots of instruments playing at the same time to create a dense texture, rich and full • Confident ending using a rallentando and triumphant timpani stomps

Use the space below for your ideas: