

Musical Character

1. What is the overall character of the piece?

Happy/Bright	Sad/Dark
Lively/Active	Lifeless/Unmoving/Motionless
Calm/Tranquil	Disturbing/Unsettling/Ominous
Jolly/Joyful/Cheery/Cheeky/Funny	Serious/Dramatic
Energetic/Brisk	Listless/Dreamy/Nostalgic
Upbeat/Bubbly	Sombre/Solemn
Cheerful/Jovial	Depressing/Miserable/Gloomy/Melancholic
Sunny/Light/Clear	Shadowy/Dark/Vague/Obscure
Animated/Lively/Dynamic	Dull/Boring/Tedious
Exciting/Thrilling/Sensational	Suspenseful/Vigorous/Mysterious/Enigmatic
Graceful/Relaxed	Strong/Forceful/Tense
Plain/Blatant/Certain/Determined	Sinister/Creepy/Spooky/Scary
Romantic/Elegant/Beautiful	Angry/Furious/Unpleasant
Comforting/Peaceful/Euphoric	Threatening/Violent/Hostile

2. What in the music gives the piece its character?

Tempo

- fast tempo
- moderate tempo
- slow tempo
- use of rubato
- accelerando
- rallentando
- sudden or gradual changes in tempo

Dynamics

- mainly quiet dynamics
- mainly loud dynamics
- extreme changes in dynamics
- sudden or gradual changes in dynamics
- contrast between loud and soft phrases

Rhythm & Metre

- duple/triple/quadruple time
- march-like rhythm (usually duple time)
- dance-like rhythm (usually triple time)
- dotted rhythms
- strong downbeats
- jazzy/bluesy rhythms
- repetitive rhythm

Tonality

- major
- minor

Articulation

- detached melody/accompaniment
- smooth melody/accompaniment
- mixture of staccato and legato notes
- strong bold accents

Melody

- song-like
- short phrases
- simple catchy melody
- elaborate complicated melody
- ornamentation
- chromatic notes in the melody
- blues notes in the melody
- repetitive melody

Accompaniment

- thick or thin chords (texture)
- free bass line (one-note)
- dissonant (clashing) chords
- repetitive accompaniment

Instrumentation

- use of pedal
- mostly low register (low note range)
- mostly high register (high note range)
- full range of instrument