

Listening and Responding to Music

Question Cards: First Level

Use these questions to explore a variety
of different styles of music

Before Listening

(Optional – you may want to listen to the music first.)

Before you listen to the music, look at the name and/or a picture of the performer/group/composer:

- Have you heard music by this singer/group/composer before?
- What type of voices/instruments do you think you will hear?

Look at the title of the music:

- What can you predict about how the music will sound?
- Do you think you will like this piece of music?

Thoughts and Feelings

- How does the music make you feel?
- Does the music make you think of a particular colour? Which colour and why?
- What words would you use to describe the mood of the music?
- Have you heard any music which sounds like this before?
- Did the music make you think of anything or create a picture or story in your head?
- What did you notice about the music?
- Does the mood of the music stay the same all the way through?
- What do you like or dislike about the music?

Instruments and Voices

- Did you hear any instruments? Did you recognise the sounds of any of the instruments?
- Were there lots of instruments, just a few or only one? Is it a group or soloist?
- If it is a group, do you know what type? (E.g. an orchestra or a pop band?)
- Did you hear any voices? Are they male/female/children's voices?
- Were there lots of voices, just a few or only one? (E.g. is it a choir or a soloist?)
- Did you hear any voices/instruments that were very high or very low pitched?

Tempo and Dynamics

(speed and volume)

- Was the music loud (forte) or quiet (piano)?
- Was the music fast (allegro) or slow (andante)?
- Did the tempo change? How did it change?
- Did the dynamics change? How did they change?

Beat, Rhythm and Melody

- Is there a main instrument or voice that plays/sings the melody?
- Can you sing or hum part of the melody?
- Do the instruments and/or voices play/sing longer, smoother notes or more staccato (short and detached) notes?
- Does the music have a strong beat? Can you tap the beat on your knees or play it on a percussion instrument?
- Are there any repeated rhythms? Can you clap or tap a rhythm you hear?
- Can you make up another rhythm that fits with the music and play along?

Structure and Texture

- Is there more than one section? How does the music change in each section?
- Can you make up movements to match different sections of the music?
- Is there a main instrument or voice that plays/sings the melody?
- Is there an accompaniment (instruments/voices in the background which support the main melody)?