

# MUSIC

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**“Music is a medium that provides an open canvas for colour combinations.”**

**Discuss this statement with reference to TWO works from the mandatory topic (Music of the Past 25 Years) and ONE work from the ADDITIONAL topic you have studied.**

“Music is a medium that provides an open canvas for colour combinations.” This statement can be supported from Nigel Westlake’s “Penguin Ballet”, Tchaikovsky’s “Autumn Song” and “Russian Bay”, as all these composers use magical elements to portray various tone colours.

In “Penguin Ballet”, plays a pivotal role as it develops the pleasure of dehydrated tone as well as support the solo guitar. Theme 1 is played by solo guitar, it has a delightful and carefree tone as if depicting a penguin underwater. It has this tone as the centre of the melody is smooth and wavy, also classical guitar produces a high pitched estimate played by harp reinforces the carefree tone, develops a somewhat lazy mood. Theme 2 melody played by violin although is not as carefree and happy as theme 1, it still has a delightful tone due to its slight movement in the melody and faster tempo. Theme 3 has a rather daring and foreboding tone. This is done by descending schismatic pitch as slow tempo. Theme 5 is a development of 3 note motif. It is the source that drives the beat and that keeps the rhythmic impact and thus creates an urgent and military like tone. (The whole ensemble is playing in this section – thicker texture). Therefore this theme depicts danger to progressive underwater. This piece ends in an optimistic tone.

“Autumn Song” has a melancholy yet peaceful tone in section A, depicting a couple’s date in a garden. The melancholy tone is depicted as the piece has a d minor tonality and also the dynamic is piano. Whereas the peaceful tone is created through smooth contour of melody and the dynamic of the piano. Section B has a sweet and loving tone due to its change of dynamic. It has a sweeter tone as this section is worked with expressive term “dulce” (sweet). The coda is much more tranquil than section A as the dynamic clefs to layer of sound reduced to orta. (This end the date in a happy way.)

The orchestra’s arrangement of “Russian Bay” has a richer tone colour to the original work. Each timbre has its unique tone colour, hence by combining the chosen timbre it helps to enrich the tone. For example, even though harp is playing complex chorded notes in bars 1-3, the tone is still very light and soft. By using trumpet, it creates a wild, jazzy feeling, as trumpets has a night jazz tone. In addition, the exp. Tech – muted trumpet in Section A – D creates a raspy resonant tone which adds to the overall nostalgic tone of this piece (as this piece has a minor tonality). The arco pizzicato in

strings creates soothing mood by arco of cheeky and lively tone by the pizzicato. The major tonality happens in this piece is in theme C. The melody of this theme is very smooth, as it's mainly moving by steps.

In conclusion, from how the composers manipulate the 6 musical concepts it helps to depict moods and senses. Therefore, it can be said that "music is a medium that provides an open canvas for colour combinations". The colours are the moods created through the tone colours in the music.