

SCHEME OF WORK 5: How can Composers and Performers be best used as a resource in the classroom?

LESSON 1: Supporting resources

What are useful tools to consider when developing a theme?

Repetition

If something sounds good, why not repeat it? This can be effective for very short themes.



A repetition that changes slightly can be particularly effective as a means of creating development.



Transposition

Moving the theme up or down by step can create remarkably different effects. Transposing up generally increases the tension and excitement a theme might have (what goes up must fall down?)



and taking a theme down can 'relax' it, even make it seem sadder in certain contexts.



Separating

Particularly when the theme has more than one clear 'motif' try breaking them apart and developing separately.

So, this theme:



has several constituent smaller parts. For example, taking A and B as separate musical ideas could generate something like this:



'Canonical' techniques

Inversion, retrograde, augmentation and diminution can all be employed to develop musical ideas. They need not be 'precise' either. For example, this is not an exact inversion but may nevertheless be musically effective.



Ornamentation and 'subtraction'

While ornamenting a theme can effectively expand and develop it,



sometimes 'taking something a way' can also yield good results.

