

## SUGGESTED ANSWERS – Winter music

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What sounds do you expect to hear, or have you heard in a snowy winter? *Wind howling, creaking snow from footsteps, falling branches, forest animals and birds that are not in hibernation or warmer places, bells from a sleigh, the screeching of ice-skates, shivering, ice cracking, icicles falling, dripping ice/snow melting when it thaws, happy screams of children tobogganing, burning firewood.*

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What are the numbers called underneath the cembalo bass line? These numbers show the intervals above the bass note that need to be played to create the desired chords. *Figured bass.*

What does *cembalo* mean? *Harpsichord*

What is meant by basso continuo? *The group of instruments (for example a single-line bass instrument such as the cello, and a keyboard instrument, such as a harpsichord), in a Baroque ensemble that play the bass line, with one usually also filling it out the chords.*

### Page 5

The score attached is an *Urtext* edition. What does that mean? *An edition which aims to reproduce the original score of the composer as closely as possible, without extra additions.*

When the violin solo enters, what technique is used to enhance the musical picture of someone trembling? *Trill*

How might the melodic shape of the solo violin phrase represent the second line? Hint: Imagine the sound of the howling wind and think about what happens to the pitch. *The line rapidly descends then leaps back to the starting high note and descends again, repetitively. This can be thought to show the howling of the wind.*

Why do you think the person is stamping their feet every moment? *They are cold, and this helps them keep warm.*

Why does using rapid repetition to show “shivering” and “teeth chattering” make sense? *This is logical because shivering, and teeth chattering, are all repetitive movements.*

What is the name of the technique for rapid repetition of one note (or rapid alteration between two notes or chords)? *tremolo*

Can you see in the score that in the “teeth chattering” the solo violin has two notes written at the same time? Playing two notes at once on bowed string instruments is called a ‘double stop’. Find two double stops in which the two notes make a dissonant

interval. Name the two intervals. *minor 2<sup>nd</sup>, major 7<sup>th</sup>.*

Let's move on to the second movement. What technique is used in the Violins 1 and 2 of the orchestra to imitate the rain?

*pizzicato*

Imagine how you might feel like sitting by the fire, "passing contented days", listening to the rain outside. What might you be doing? Try not to mention electronics; this piece was written long before any were in use. *There is no single right answer. Example – Having tea, reading, watching the fireplace, looking out the window, staring at droplets, thinking/dreaming, napping, carving something out of wood, knitting, preparing dinner, crafting, chatting quietly, playing with toys, studying, doing housework, drawing, writing a letter.*

## **Page 6**

In the 3rd movement the bass line is often sustained (held continuously) on one note while the parts above change. What is the name of this technique? It is also interesting that the long, sustained notes in this piece were likely to have been elaborated/improvised on in Vivaldi's time. *Pedal point.*

Why might the sonnet refer to the chill of the 'North' winds, rather than the South? *Because this is describing the Northern hemisphere, in which the generalization is: the more North you go, closer to the Arctic, the colder it gets, and the more South you go, away from the Arctic and toward the equator, the warmer it gets.*

How might the phrase shape reflect crashing to the ground? *It is a descending scale to a low note.*

How does Vivaldi use instrumentation (choice of instruments) at this moment? *All instruments (except double basses) are playing in unison – saying the same thing.*

The sonnet mentions winter's delights. What might be some winter activities that this section of the music might suit?

*Sledding, sleigh riding, having a snowball fight.*

## **Page 7**

Who wrote the story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King"? *E. T. A. Hoffmann.*

What century was this story written and the ballet composed in? What years does the century span? *19<sup>th</sup> century. 1801-1900.*

What is a bit unusual about the instrumentation used in this ballet number?

*Tchaikovsky uses a choir.*

What are some of the instruments used that are might help you in achieving a 'magical' mood suitable for imagining snowflakes dancing in a forest?

*Harp, flutes, triangle.*

What percussion instrument adds to the storminess in the second half of the Waltz?

*Cymbals*

What technique used in the harp part adds to the 'swishiness' of the snowstorm?

*glissando*

How many notes does the main motif of this piece have? *Three*

What is the *corps de ballet*?

*The group of dancers in the ballet who are not the soloists.*

What are the other ballets that Tchaikovsky wrote? *Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake.*

Name any three ballet companies and the countries which they are from. Look up some videos of their productions or go and see one if you have the opportunity to! *E.g. Bolshoi Ballet (Russia), Paris Opera Ballet (France), Mariinsky/Kirov Ballet (Russia), The Royal Ballet (UK).*

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What do you think would've been a practical reason why sleighs had bells attached to them? *To warn pedestrians of the coming sleigh, because the sleigh can't stop very quickly and might not be heard well.*

### **Page 9**

When performing a piece in minuet and trio form, what is the widely-accepted performance practice regarding repeats? *Minuet with repeats, trio with repeats, minuet without repeats, coda (if present).*

At the fanfare-like start of the Coda (at 1'27" in the linked recording) identify when the harmony changes from tonic to dominant and then back to tonic. *In this recording, it changes to dominant at 1'35" and back to tonic at 1'46".*

Below is an excerpt from the piano reduction of the second movement. Label the chords used both in isolation and in the context of the key they are in (Eg, G minor 1st inversion, ii<sub>6/3</sub>). Ignore any passing harmonies.

### **Page 10.**

*See below*

**Allegretto.**  
**C** (Schlittenfahrt.)  
 I. Schell.

In F Major: F Major, root position;  $I_{5/3}$  B flat Major, 2<sup>nd</sup> inv;  $IV_{6/4}$  F Major, root position;  $I_{5/3}$

In C Major:  $I_{5/3}$  F Major, root position;  $I_{5/3}$  G Major Minor Root 7th, 2<sup>nd</sup> inv;  $V_{4/3}$  position;  $V_7$  C Major root pos.;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major root pos.;  $I_{5/3}$  Trp. D Tr.

C Major, root position;  $V_{5/3}$  (passing harmonies, and the 7<sup>th</sup> also present) F Major, root position;  $I_{5/3}$  then C Major root position;  $V_{5/3}$  C Major, root position;  $V_{5/3}$  Trg. Schb.

Ptschk n. C Major root;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major root;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major root;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major root;  $I_{5/3}$  G Major Minor 7<sup>th</sup>;  $V_7$  C Major root;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major root pos.;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major;  $I_{5/3}$

I. u. II. Schell. C Major 1<sup>st</sup> inv;  $I_{6/3}$  C Major root pos.;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major root pos.;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major;  $I_{5/3}$  C Major;  $V_{5/3}$

In F Major: C Major;  $V_{5/3}$

In this piece, what represents the relentless sound made by the hooves? *The repetitive, even, and regular drum part, sometimes aided by a similar accompanying pattern in some strings and brass.*

What is the instrument that first plays the melody? What is the next instrument to take over the melody?  
*Clarinet then oboe.*

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Here is an excerpt from *November - Troika*. Describe the techniques that are used in bars 3 and 4 of this excerpt to represent sleigh bells on a horse.

*grazioso*

*mf* *sf* *p* *sf* *p* *sf*

*Acciaccaturas on repetitive high notes, with dissonance (tritone as part of the harmony). Regularly alternating same high-low pitches could be thought of as trotting.*

What is happening in the music around 0'56"? What interval is characteristic here?  
*Imitation between the trumpet and flute. Perfect 4<sup>th</sup>.*

### Page 12

What is the function/role of the beginning of the piece, before the typical waltz accompaniment starts? *It is an introduction.*

How does Waldteufel make this opening section sound like it is set in sparkling/magical winter? *Quick demisemiquaver runs in the piccolo and flute answered by the violins (all in the treble register), trills, transparent texture (not many instruments playing).*

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Using the score excerpt above, describe how sleigh bells are represented from bar 97 (rehearsal figure 4). *Repeated acciaccaturas on high notes, use of piccolo, sleigh bells, triangle. Pizzicato in some of the violins and double bass add to the effect.*

What word is sometimes written in a score to show that the violin group needs to divide (in this score it was written earlier than the given excerpt)? *divisi*

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Did you know that the piccolo flute sounds an octave higher than written? Using this information, which instrument in this excerpt is playing the highest part? *The piccolo.* Don't get confused by the octave sign in the flute, it still ends up being lower.

In the part before the example with the bells, the music sounds like it is imitating the skaters doing jumps. How does the phrase shape reflect these jumps (use your imagination and the following excerpt from this melody)?



Ascending upbeat of a four-quaver arpeggio, as if the skater approaching the jump, followed by two quick breaths in preparation for the jump, then the quick jump to the high note, with the octave acciaccatura to help, then the landing, a whole two and a half octaves lower.

What time signature is the opening piece in this set probably in?  $\frac{3}{4}$

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Write down the melody line for the first few bars. The rhythm, starting note, and left hand are given. Don't worry about filling in the chords in the right hand (unless you want to of course).



What is the overall key of this piece? *A flat major*

How can you tell from the score excerpt above? *Key signature and opening chord strengthened by its dominant soon after.*

If the opening chord is a tonic (I) chord, what is the function of the 7<sup>th</sup> chords in bars 3 and 4? What are their inversions? *They are both Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chords, but in bar 3 the chord is in 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion (V 4/3).*

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Is this piece in a major or minor key? *Minor*

This is an example of a lied. What are lieder? *German art songs for voice and piano.*

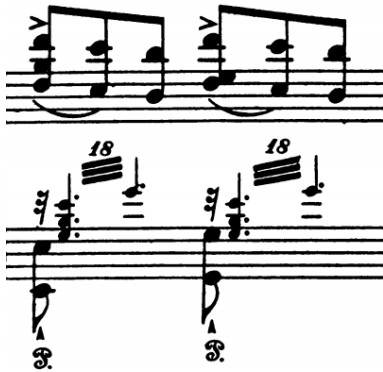
### Page 22

Name two intervals which are heard in the harmonies and/or the melody which help creating the bitter dissonance? *Major 2<sup>nd</sup>, and tritone.*

This piece is a cappella. What does that mean? *Sung without accompaniment.*

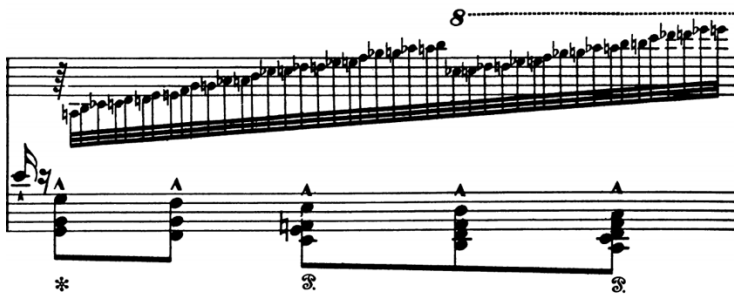
Find the score on [imslp.org](http://imslp.org) or in your library. Write down some of the expressive score markings used by Liszt and their meanings, that help build the storminess. *Rinforzando molto* – very increased in force, *Energico* – energetically, *stringendo* – increasing in tempo, *sempre piu di fuoco* – always more fire, *strepitoso* – noisy/impetuous.

An example of a place where the tremolo isn't written out, but indicated by shorthand notation, is the following excerpt. Why do you think is pedalling especially important in this this section? *To help sustain the resonance of the bass note.*



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In the excerpt below what is the right hand playing? *A chromatic scale*



From listening to the recordings suggest suitable dynamic markings and tempo markings for the introduction, and the opening of the main section. Compare with Chopin's score. *p-pp-f. Lento – Allegro con brio*

As a pianist, why despite all the technical difficulty of the right hand, must you give a lot of attention to the left hand? *The left hand has most of the melodic material therefore the phrases need to be shaped well as the right hand will also follow the shape set by the*

*left hand. The balance between hands also has to be thoroughly thought through. It is also the bass line and therefore provides a 'foundation' for the piece.*

