

Final Assignment: Translating from Music

Working alone or in pairs or groups, you are asked to produce an intersemiotic translation into your chosen art form of one of the pieces already analysed on this course OR another piece of music of your choice.

Please bear in mind that our objective is to explore how the resources inherent in different art forms (drawing/painting, photography/videoart, poetry/writing, dance etc) can be used to express musical ideas. For this reason, you should attempt to go beyond a merely subjective response (e.g. *what this makes me think of...*) and try to find a way of translating in a more precise way certain specific features of the music.

In particular you are asked to try to reproduce:

- **The form:**
 - *does the music have a recognisable structure?* For example: ABA (when the main theme is followed by a contrasting section and then repeated – as with the middle-8 in much popular music); ABCBDBEB (i.e. rondo form or when you have a repeated chorus in popular music); A/A1/A2/A3/A4 etc (i.e. variations on a theme)
 - *If not, are there any musical motifs or patterns that are repeated?* (If so, are they repeated in exactly the same way or altered somehow?)

- **At least 4 of the following:**
 - tempo
 - pitch range
 - rhythm
 - timbre (as expressed by instrumentation etc)
 - the voicing: How many voices are there? Are they operating in unison (playing the same part at the same time), in harmony (playing different parts at the same time), in dialogue (in counterpoint / ‘talking’ to each other), or in some other way?
 - the melody: *Does the melodic line move away from the tonic and come back home at the end, or does it do something different?*

PLEASE NOTE: If your chosen piece has any verbal or visual associations (such as a descriptive title, or has been used as a soundtrack to a film or ballet, etc), please think carefully about letting this influence your translation. The aim is NOT to reproduce the verbal or the visual dimension, but the music (though in some cases, they will be difficult to dissociate, or may even be specifically significant).

In the final session, you will be asked to explain to the rest of the group what exactly you were trying to do and how.

If you wish to allow your translation to be published on the Soundscapes/Experiential Translation website or reproduced in the Experiential Translation conference/exhibition in July, you may wish to write a short text (1-3 paragraphs at most) in which you explain exactly what you were trying to do.