

HOUSTON SYMPHONY

The piece you heard in the above video, which you will also hear during the concert, is No. 1 Scène from *Swan Lake*, Opus 20a by Pytor Tchaikovsky. During the concert, Gonzalo will use this excerpt to discuss how melody and accompaniment work together. After watching the video, the extension below can be used to encourage your students to play their instruments and enhance your students' experience at the concert.

Below you will find arrangements of this excerpt for string orchestra. Each part in the extension document below includes the melody, an arpeggiated accompaniment, and a chordal accompaniment. These can be played with the full ensemble, in small groups, or even with just two instruments!

Encourage your students to explore different combinations to discover how melody and accompaniment work together!

To listen and play along to *Swan Lake*, you can play this YouTube video: [Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake Suite, Op. 20a: I. Scene "Swan Theme". Moderato](#)

Swan Lake Suite Op. 20a

I. Scene

String Orchestra

Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Moderato

Vn. Melody

Vn. Arpeggios

Vn. Chords

Va. Melody

Va. Arpeggios

Va. Chords

Vc./Db. Melody

Vc./Db. Arpeggios

Vc./Db. Chords

Swan Lake Suite Op. 20a

I. Scene

Violin

Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Moderato

Melody

Arpeggios

Chords

3

The musical score is written for Violin. It consists of two systems of three staves each. The first staff in each system is labeled 'Melody', the second 'Arpeggios', and the third 'Chords'. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, with the melody starting on a whole note D5. The second system shows measures 3, 4, and 5. The melody in measure 3 is a dotted half note D5, and in measure 4 it is a dotted half note E5. The arpeggios and chords provide harmonic support for the melody.

Swan Lake Suite Op. 20a

I. Scene

Viola

Pytor Iliyeh Tchaikovsky

3

The musical score is written for Viola in 3/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two measures. The second system has three measures, ending with a double bar line. The score is divided into three parts: Melody, Arpeggios, and Chords.

Melody: The first measure contains a whole rest. The second measure contains a half note D5, followed by a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5, all beamed together.

Arpeggios: The first measure contains a continuous eighth-note arpeggio starting on D4. The second measure contains a continuous eighth-note arpeggio starting on D4.

Chords: The first measure contains a whole chord of D major (D4, F#4, A4). The second measure contains a whole chord of D major (D4, F#4, A4).

System 2:

Melody: The first measure contains a half note D5, followed by a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5, all beamed together. The second measure contains a half note D5, followed by a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5, all beamed together. The third measure contains a half note D5, followed by a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5, all beamed together.

Arpeggios: The first measure contains a continuous eighth-note arpeggio starting on D4. The second measure contains a continuous eighth-note arpeggio starting on D4. The third measure contains a continuous eighth-note arpeggio starting on D4.

Chords: The first measure contains a whole chord of D major (D4, F#4, A4). The second measure contains a whole chord of D major (D4, F#4, A4). The third measure contains a whole chord of D major (D4, F#4, A4).

Swan Lake Suite Op. 20a

I. Scene

Cello/Double Bass

Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Melody

Arpeggios

Chords