

Critical Listening Critiques: Air for the G String

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This classical piece that J.S. Bach composed, I chose only in 2 categories. I did this because the adjectives I want to connect to this classical song have quite a few connected synonyms within the individual adjectives that I chose. I will first start with the adjective leisurely. Leisurely is in category D. While I found this song leisurely, the melody was for sure very easy going, sedate, and relaxed. With this classical piece having no lyrics to it, the melody connected to me in these other adjectives. I connected the adjective tender with this song from category D. This melody carried a caring, gentle, and almost compassionate soft hearted feel while I thoroughly listened through its duration. I will continue on with my third choice of the adjective I chose and then will continue into more of my thoughts. I chose the adjective doleful. The adjective doleful is from category F. The word doleful actually has connected synonym adjectives that are also in category F. These adjectives I will also relate to emotional matching synonyms are sad, gloomy, melancholic, and mournful. When listening to this melody, I found the contour shape of the pitch movements a little dreary feeling. The pitches in the melody were connected very smoothly as the song plays. I never heard if any, any staccato pitches. The melody of the notes ran as smoothly as I listened, the sounds of the notes never really separated or detached from one another. This piece really was cohesive because of the smooth note melody. I think that is a big reason for the unification and cohesiveness in this piece. A big factor that plays a big part in this song's coherence, comprehensiveness, and communication feel is the fact that this song is very legato. The notes and pitches are articulated and very smoothly connected. I would also expect that if this song, Air on the G string were to be played on other instruments, it would also remain quite the same sounding melody on how the phrases are played. This particular version of this piece was performed and played on a cello and a piano as a duet. The cellist, Misha Quint, is actually a very talented musician and known throughout the world. As he plays the cello, the combined instruments intertwined and the patterns they are melodically making are quite leisurely, doleful, and tender. The pianist, Svetlana Gorokovich even exhibits those adjective physical feels while she is playing. I watched this song being played while listening first. Then, I played several other times and shut my eyes and did not watch any influence of a visual feel. I felt very much the same when I did both. As I collectively listen to the piece several times in its fullness, I feel a very musically satisfying feeling. The whole musical phrase compositioning of this piece gave it the legato quality for such a smooth beautiful song, with no lyrics. A lot can be said just through the melodic contour of this piece. There is rise and fall throughout the phrases of this song, leaving me as a listener, needing absolutely no lyrics to feel the adjectives and emotions I felt by just enjoying the melody of its own expression that it holds in its succession. This piece was very nice and pleasant, I enjoyed it.

My aesthetic experience for the classical piece, Air on the G string, by J.S. Bach I will describe as a pleasurable and positive experience. I say this connecting on the fact that I was listening very close to the melody in this song. It's a very quality piece of music with its beautiful and gentle melody and how its legato pitches are executed, which gave me a very good "quality" aesthetic experience. I give the Air on the G string a high value first and foremost due to its composing being done by Johann Sebastian Bach. Along with this particular piece he did, he in fact also did several other great melodic and

harmonic classical compositions. He is indeed one of the most known composers of his time. His pieces along with this one will continue on being studied and played forever. This piece is considered good music for all of these reasons I have mentioned. I also can see how there are a lot of events whether it be weddings, funerals, or peaceful settings, possibly in public places where this song would bring the situation an added value for use. It holds a lot of value in bringing different emotions through its melody which also adds to its being good music to me. It has remained a popular known Bach composition, so obviously the melody has spoken and reached through many people (not lyrically), making it a remembered and loved classical arrangement.