

Critical Listening Critiques: Bolero

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Out of all the pieces I have listened to for this week, I must say, this one stood out the most in its adjectives I am going to describe. I will start with category D and the adjective tranquil. I chose this because the entirety of this composition to me was so intriguing by the first disposing of the sounds and instruments order this song had. This song began to build till the end as instruments were then gathered and deposited together to make the explosive ending. It held its true tranquility all the way through even with its dynamics that started soft while increasing louder with power as the song durated. I also think the tranquil adjective is a big part of why I think its coherence was so strong to me. Everything it was completely had repetitive melody. I really never got bored listening to it, even though it repeated, therefor it was very coherent to me. The way the composer manipulated all the aspects of music, harmony, melody, form, rhythm for Bolero, it was quite tranquil sounding including its timbre. Soothing, in category D was chosen because while being tranquil it was completely soothing to listen to at the same time. This piece is also the longest song out of all the exemplars. It made me very soothed and comfortable throughout its entire duration. That could also be due to that delicate beginning of the drum. The drum could have set a soothing feel as it flowed into the flute with its soothing notes of the flute solo. As the instruments switched from flute to clarinet, to the oboe, act. it still was communicative as soothing to me. This piece makes me wonder if the composer wanted the listening audience to feel stimulated in a smooth way or if they had a bad aesthetic experience to their ear, mind, and soul as they listened. As the harmony and the form continued through Bolero, it could have actually become possibly quite disturbing to some. I say this because several things repeated over and over can start to drive some people to madness. Which leads into my adjective from category H which is emphatic. I chose this because it's obviously resounding the melody for literally seventeen minutes. The emphatic cohesiveness is obviously unified by its repetitive melody in which each instrument has the same emphatic melody and rhythms when played measure by measure. It's interesting because when the soloists instrument changes, it is very coherent to me. I was intrigued to listen and see what instrument would be spotlighted next in its solo. It was emphatic also That you could hear a portion of almost any four to eight measures of this song only and probably could unmistakably know that this is definitely bolero at any point in the song. Bolero's distinct unmistakable melody, whether it be the quiet beginning, middle, or the much repeated forceful ending was remarkable along with the drummer emphatically continuing the same rhythm as well. Speaking of the melody in this piece, I chose graceful out of category C. It was graceful because of its delicate beginning as the instruments played into the sheer light plucking at times of the fingertips on the violin. The melody has a very graceful flow of how absolutely slow the notes flow. Its cohesiveness is amazing how it built its force in its duration, but with complete grace. I find this song an absolutely amazing song of complexity of how the composer unified it's cohesiveness of the melody played by one soloist at the start, but all instruments by the end at the same time. It never lost its graceful luster. Some people could find this monotonous and too repetitive. But, if you listen, you can appreciate its powerful grace of comprehensiveness. The sheer graceful tranquility leads me into the adjective dreamy from category D. Along with its soothing serenity, I chose dreamy due to its almost romantic feel. It has a serene, soothing, pleasant, and dreamy communication to me. Its slow melodic tempo has a dreamy feel with how it was arranged with the instruments. When combining so many different instruments together playing the melody notes together this song was

remarkable in its timbre. Although repeated so much, it had such a rich and beautiful warmth to it. It remained dreamy even with the dynamics rising towards the duration. The composition of this piece really communicates in so many different ways and that is the way it communicated to me.

The song Bolero holds so many different values. This song shows musical value, artistic value, entertainment value, and therapeutic value as well in my opinion. Bolero has a hold to high value for not only its listening value but also for a performance value. This song leads a lot of places for the mind to follow, which makes its artistry that much more valued. This song is clearly recognizable once been made aware of. That is another form of good value and good music because it is recognizable. This composition possesses more values also through the solo instrumentalists playing keeping the consistent flow changing throughout each other. This song is a great emotional value piece of work in the music world due to its imaginative involvement work of the composer. This is good music and will be around forever.