

Critical Listening Critiques: Don Giovanni

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In reviewing this exemplar the surprises that I found are first that this is an opera based song. I really wasn't sure what to expect. I'm figuring that this genre is classified as opera. I did not know that it had been put in a movie. I was surprised that it does not have English lyrics that I can understand exactly what is going on in the song. I had to watch closely to the video because of the foreign lyrics to see what this song was representing. I am surprised that I feel as though I need to study deeper or watch the entire first and second act to fully understand everything about this composition. I believe it's an Italian opera based on simply first seeing Giovanni in it. Typically the name or word Giovanni is the Italian origin. I was surprised that it had so much added theater involved while viewing. I wasn't expecting acting, dancing, and costumes on stage. It was a different exemplar to take in due to all the extra visual sights and I didn't know it was going to be telling somewhat part of a story. Opera voices always surprise me too. I say this because of the ranges in their voices, with a boisterous sound. I simply just wasn't expecting it to be an opera piece. I personally was expecting it to be a classical song only. I was really surprised to see this different exemplar based off of the other exemplars because this is the first opera and visual opera exemplar that we have done.

Since this exemplar was surprising in such a different way, I am going to start differently on my comprehensiveness on my knowledge associated with this song, Don Giovanni's attributes and concepts. I will first start with that Don Giovanni is an opera. With the finale scene being in act 2, there are 2 acts only in this opera. This exemplar I watched is from a movie that is called AMADEUS. As I was watching I was trying to make sure that this was a trio and not just a duet. In all honestly, it was difficult for me to see if the big creature was singing also. Operas are usually pretty long shows of boisterous singing of AMAZING voices. I am assuming that there is a lot more to this opera because this exemplar was under six to seven minutes long. Operas can last up to 3 hours sometimes, actually longer than a lot of movies in theaters, from what I understand. I will move on to the actual son Don Giovanni. The music to Don Giovanni was arranged by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died over a hundred years ago. He is known in a huge way now as a fantastic composer for classical music. I have learned through the years he was known to have started composing music are an extremely young age. Mozart was known for his great piano playing and a violinist. He was a genius in the classical music era and is continually studied to this day. He could write symphony music that also continued into opera work such as Don Giovanni. While listening to Don Giovanni, Mozart clearly kept such great sophisticated concepts throughout his music for the master pieces he wrote. The harmony in Don Giovanni has really good artistic aesthetic effects. Especially when this song was put to an added vision for an opera. I will begin to explain my categories I chose for my adjective choices. I chose category H. I chose two adjective from category H. The first adjective is emphatic. I chose this because emphatic means being expressive on something in a forceful way. As I watched, clearly something was being shown on a strong emphasis. The music alone is emphatic. Saying that, I also chose the adjective dramatic. It's a forceful melody with an energetic cohesiveness connecting the melody with the visual. I am speaking on this song including my thoughts also based upon including watching the exemplar video with it. In category F, I chose two adjectives. I chose serious and tragic. The coherence of this piece was a combined feeling from those two adjectives. I feel like I would have chosen these two adjectives without the visual exemplar. The

melody was serious throughout its entire duration all the way to its completely dramatic ending. Mozart had a good way of having a great comprehensiveness to his compositions he wrote throughout his years. The lyrics were dramatic, emphatic, and serious. The sheer emotions in the lyrics that were sung in the opera were very convincing of that. I chose the adjective tragic because of the feel of this piece and also the visual that I saw. It for sure was not a cheerful ray of sunshine and a rainbow at the end. Even if you didn't have the melodious music playing with the vocalists, I still would have felt these emotions through the music communication. Also, I chose the adjective pleading from category E. It was pretty clear that this scene was a very pleading scene. The strength in emotion of the music combined with the written lyrics emotionally sung felt very much like pleading. The attributes from Don Giovanni have features of genius classical song writing in the elements of this genre of music. There's quality in the melody of the composition and there's quality of the vocalists singing the needed talent to sing these ranges of this song. This melody showed intensity and depth with or without the visual of the opera. It also showed the same without having to be in a movie. The visuals helped me to understand what was going on considering it wasn't English. But, if I had just been listening to this piece for the first time in my headphones, I for sure would have chosen the same adjectives. That's what's cool about music, different people can listen and have something different to say about their experience with it. And even with watching a visual with the song, and it giving you the actual visual story with the audible lyrics, people can STILL have something different to say about their experience with it. As I learned in the video previously I watched for this lesson, it was said that melody is music's most powerful soul. They just affect us all in so many different ways as too how we might listen, relate, and feel.

The aesthetic experience on this piece for me was actually different from the past experience of all the exemplars. While the other exemplars had somewhat of something to look at on screen, this one was obviously an opera scene from the movie Amadeus. I kind of like the exemplars the best that allow my brain to explore my own aesthetic brain visual with only listening to the music first. I like getting totally my own feel first off of just listening and hearing the music. This wasn't a bad aesthetic experience for me, only a different one for that reason. I give this song a high value because of Mozart's compositioning on this piece. I listen to music now more in depth than what I used to. I pay attention to the attributes the composer tried to compile in their work. Mozart has proven himself over and over through the years that he composed GREAT music that will last forever. His music will continue to be in movies, continue to be played in concerts, and continued to be remembered as exceptional in the music world. For all this being said, this song is a great music in my opinion.