

## Critical Listening Critiques: The Rite of Spring

Antjuan Darrisae

### Given Answer:

The Rite of Spring/Sacrificial dance is a classical piece that I first chose category J and the adjective frustrated. This piece I chose this category and adjective for was due to the songs complexity. It was very intricate and involved as the intrinsic of the musical sounds were quite strong and loud. This composed piece had remarkable timbre of the sounds I heard that almost left me feeling very anxious. It was bright but yet peculiar and harsh also. It was very communicative to me in a peculiar way as its coherence definitely held my attention all the way to the end with its final notes and drums after the duration of this piece. The comprehensiveness of this piece did leave me feeling satisfied but unsettled at the same time. I think that the cohesiveness of the Rite of Spring/Sacrificial Dance was interesting because of the interconnected sounds and the way the rhythms and instruments were unified throughout the piece. I felt as though I was focused by the frustration I felt while listening, almost like something was wrong. The next category and adjectives I chose for the Rite of Spring/Sacrificial Dance is category H and adjective dramatic. I chose this first off due to its incredible dramatic intro and its dramatic ending. It was coherent right from the start. It embraced my attention from the very first measure. The dramatics of this piece I feel is what held its unity of cohesiveness together. The ending measures definitely had a complete dramatic ending for sure. The intricate notes of the instruments brought on an overall dramatic feel as it communicated some drama feel throughout the whole time. The drum rhythms became very dramatic at times and the allegro speed made it dramatic as well. Adding to its dramatics, the abrupt ending was quite dramatic following a wild composition until the sudden ending. The third category and adjective I chose for this classical piece is category F and adjective serious because of the musical communicative feel it gave to me as the listener. The intensity of this piece made me focus on a serious feel from its harsh and unusual sound. I think the tones were a bit eerie, but bright at the same time. This is probably due to the different instruments playing the same note at the same volume. There were definitely distinguishable characteristics of the tones that made it feel serious to me. There were also a lot of note phrases that were short, quick, and punchy. The duration of the time intervals gave this piece an overall serious feel to me. Next for Rite of Spring/Sacrificial Dance, I chose three adjectives in category I. The first adjective in category I I chose was exciting. I chose this because of the overall dynamics. The volume was mostly loud. This music communicative note composition was very exciting! The instrument's complexity was also exciting with a much unified running of the notes. All of the brass, winds, strings, and drums that played provided this classical piece with such an interesting timbre sound and made it completely cohesive in its interconnectedness. The song was exciting from the beginning leaving me feel excited with other emotions at the end. Vigorous is the second adjective in category I that I chose for this orchestra played piece. The score of this piece involves very complex note structure. The rhythms are vigorous, which made me think of the form the composer was composing in. It made me wonder how much of the world felt the adjective vigorous while listening. Also, did the composer intend for the majority of his audience to feel this adjective that I felt. In the arrangement of this orchestra playing, the instrumentalists were faced with many vigorous sections. This song has a lot of musical movement with a vigorous feel. It communicated to me in an almost eerie vigorous way, holding the coherence of my focus on the instrument's vigorous playing. Almost heart pounding really...

vigorous until the last ending of completion. I connect the allegro tempo a lot to my vigorous adjective choice of this piece also. The rapid movement of the instrument sounds were very vigorous which made this piece a very lively one in tempo. On my final adjective I chose in category I was the adjective agitated. The adjective agitated relates a lot to the frustrated adjective I chose also for this piece. I chose them both for a lot of the same reasons. There are a lot of communicative feelings and possibly some unseen visual meanings to this piece. The agitation felt in this piece makes me focus on my sheer feel of agitation while being lively at the same time. I perceived a lot of strong complexity of emotions in this piece of agitation. This whole classical piece was unified and interconnected by its rhythms, speed, short durations of a lot of notes played, and its intensity of its loud musical sound. This piece would not help me rest or fall asleep. I liked it, but almost felt as if someone would listen to it in a serious manner. It could be quite mood connected to me personally if I was agitated about something. The very wide spectrum of the timbre sound helped me to choose also the adjective agitated. Its comprehensiveness at the end was almost relieving as if something was over more than just the music itself. I got curious about this piece being called the Rite of Spring/Sacrificial Dance. I asked my mom if she had any knowledge of the song, her being into dance. I placed the song just to see if she was familiar with it. She wondered if it was a ballet piece of classical music. I wanted to get the answer for her and I went and further studied this song and in fact it was a part of a ballet that was first performed in 1913. As I went on educating myself, I concluded the adjectives I chose before knowing anything else about this piece which were Frustrated, Dramatic, Serious, exciting, vigorous, and agitated was for a reason. How it was communicative to me was on target for what I felt as though the composer perhaps wanted me to feel when just listening. I knew by the end of the song, it was taking me somewhere feeling shuddered in some sort of way. I just didn't know by listening if it was a good ending or a bad ending of relief and if there was more to this song. Actually in the sacrificial dance a specific girl dances herself to death. Interesting that it did communicate to me just by listening to this piece, the same way some people got to also visually see it too.

A lot of the value that this composition, the Rite of Spring/Sacrificial Dance possesses and why I would consider it good music, is because of all the details I have spoken about prior in this assignment. It was used in an actual ballet, so it held a lot of its value there itself. With its intricately composed notes, rhythms, and feel it was actually a masterpiece within itself. It was intended to make the listener feel something. We all value music differently and I think the value of this song is noted due to its long lasting history of the musical knowledge and creativity that went into its form. The value of this composition is not only due to the composer but also the musicians that were capable of playing this intense piece. This song has been around since the early 1900's and still stands and holds its landmark in the classical music world. Music that keeps a notoriety, no matter what the listener interprets it as, is considered good music to me. This song is also known for its famous composer, Stravinsky. Whether people enjoyed his music or not, he made his mark with his remarkable musical masterpiece. This song was a good aesthetic experience for me because it opened my ears to yet another classical piece and gave me even more appreciation and knowledge on noticing every detail I heard after listening several times to this piece. Even though I felt frustration and agitation while listening, that's not always a bad experience. A good aesthetic experience to me is feeling something that is beyond the ordinary everyday feel, and this piece granted me that.