

Year 10 GCSE Music Home Learning – HT3, Lesson 4

- Go to your class notebook *(if you don't know how to access it from home, watch this short screencastify: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OqIYaH1vstneTc1_aIJYaWK1WS6SHzrC/view)*
- Click on your name – home learning
- Complete task “HT3 - 4. Adams - "The Chairman Dances" (1985)”



HT1 - 1. Wagner "Liebestod" from "Trista...
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HT1 - 2. Satie - "First Gymnopédie" (1888)
HT1 - 3. Mussorgsky - 'Promenade' from...
HT1 - 4. Tchaikovsky- 'Swan Lake No 20...
HT1 - 5. Rimsky-Korsakov - "Scheheraza...
HT1 - 6. Debussy - "Pagodes" from "Esta...
HT2 - 1. Dvorak - "New World Symphon...
HT2 - 2. Elgar - "Nimrod" from "Enigma...
HT2 - 3. Scott Joplin - "Maple Leaf Rag" (...)
HT2 - 4. Strauss - "Dance of the 7 Veils" f...
HT2 - 5. Stravinsky - "Rite of Spring" - "A...
HT2 - 6. Stravinsky - "Les Noces" (1923)
HT3 - 1. Brecht/Weill - "Threepenny Ope...
HT3 - 2. Shostakovich - "Leningrad Symp...
HT3 - 3. Copland - "Appalachian Spring"...
HT3 - 4. Adams - "The Chairman Dances...
HT3 - 5. Reich - "Music for 18 Musicians"...
HT3 - 6. ...

HT3 - 4. Adams - "The Chairman Dances" (1985)



Composer Fact file:
★ John Adams
★ b. 1947
★ Born in America

MP3 File:

Adams

Contextual Information

American composers tended to be less shackled to the past than their European counterparts, and Adams work shows the influence not only of composers such as Debussy, but also of contemporary film composers.

Rhythms are very important in Adams music. He is a composer in the Minimalist style, and there is a liberating feel to the music. Classical music that sounds a bit like film music is more common now but in the 1980s was quite a new thing.

The piece of music is subtitled "A Foxtrot for the Orchestra" and consists of a number of dance like tunes over its 13 minute duration. Adams described it as an outtake from the opera he was working on at the time called *Nixon in China*, which was about American President Richard Nixon's visit to Chairman Mao.

The orchestra this piece is written for includes a large number of percussion instruments, such as glockenspiel, xylophone, vibraphone and wood blocks.