

Competency - 3.0 Identifies the types and styles and the characteristics of the different periods in the history of music

Competency Level - 3.2 Describes the Concerto, Suite, Overture and Ballet.

Activity - 3.2.1 Concertos, Ballets, Overtures and Suite

TYPES AND STYLES

CONCERTO

- The **Concerto** is an instrumental composition.
- It is a composition for a solo instrument with an orchestral accompaniment.
- It is often in **three** movements. (Fast – Slow –Fast)
- There is a special unaccompanied show piece (without the orchestra) for the soloist which is called the “**Cadenza**”.
- For several minutes, the soloist displays his/her skills and techniques without the orchestra.
- **W. A. Mozart** is known as the **Prince of Concertos**.

Eg:

- (I) Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major (k.218) - W.A. Mozart
- (II) Clarinet Concerto in A Major (k.622) - W.A. Mozart



BALLET

- **Ballet** is a type of dance performed to music, which tells a story or expresses an idea.
- It is a work consisting of choreography with orchestral accompaniment.
- One of the most popular ballets is Tchaikovsky's “**The Nutcracker**” which tells a story about a girl who befriends a charmed nutcracker and brings him back to life on Christmas Eve.

Eg.

- (I) Sleeping Beauty - P. I. Tchaikovsky
- (II) Swan Lake - P. I. Tchaikovsky
- (III) The Nutcracker - P. I. Tchaikovsky



SUITE

- **Suite** is a set of dance movements, which are played one after the other.
- It is an instrumental composition.
- These dance forms are usually in **Binary form and in the same key**.
- Most common collection of dance forms are:
 - (I) Allemande
 - (II) Courante
 - (III) Sarabande
 - (IV) Gigue
- Additionally, other dance forms are sometimes included.
(Minuet, Gavotte, Passepied or Bouree)

Eg;

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| (I) Water music | – G.F. Handel |
| (II) Fireworks music | – G. F. Handel |
| (III) Children's corner suite | – C. Debussy |
| (IV) Suite No.2 for small orchestra | – I. Stravinsky |



OVERTURE

- The term **Overture** is used for two purpose:
 - (I) The term is used for a piece of instrumental music composed as an introduction to an Opera, Oratorio or a similar dramatic work.
 - (II) An independent instrumental piece which has no connection to any other musical composition
 - Later the overture was established in two forms;
 - (I) Italian overture
 - (II) French overture
- Eg;
- (I) Leonore overture – L. v. Beethoven (an overture from Fidelio)
 - (II) Hebrides overture – F. Mendelssohn (an independent music piece)
 - (III) William Tell overture- G. Rossini (the overture of William Tell opera)



Answer the following questions.

- (I) What is a concerto?
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- (II) Describe what a 'Cadenza' is.
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- (III) What is the musical form of dance movements in a 'Suite'?
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- (IV) Who composed 'Sleeping Beauty'?
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- (V) What is the 'Leonore overture'?
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- (VI) Name two suites by G. F. Handel.
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- (VII) What is the work that consists of choreography with orchestral accompaniment?
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- (VIII) What is the story in brief of 'The Nutcracker'?
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- (IX) Which composer is known as the 'Prince of Concertos'?
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- (X) Name the most common collection of dance forms of a Suite.
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