

Candidate 1 evidence

Piece for piano and cello

Piano

Violoncello

mf

This system contains measures 1 through 4. The piano part is written in a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The right hand plays chords with a grace note (marked with a 'y') on the first note of each measure. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The cello part is a single staff with a bass clef, containing rests for all four measures. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the piano part.

This system contains measures 5 through 8. The piano part continues with the same chordal and accompanimental patterns as the first system. The cello part remains with rests. The dynamic marking *mf* is not explicitly repeated in this system.

This system contains measures 9 through 12. The piano part continues with the same chordal and accompanimental patterns. The cello part remains with rests. The dynamic marking *p* is placed below the piano part, and *mf* is placed below the cello part.

This system contains measures 13 through 16. The piano part continues with the same chordal and accompanimental patterns. The cello part remains with rests. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the cello part.

33 34 35 36

f

37 38 39

mf *f* *p*

40 41 42 43

rit.

rit.

Higher Music assignment

Candidate name:

Candidate number:

Centre number:

Composing review

The composing review for Higher Music must refer to compositional methods used and include:

- ◆ the main decisions you have made
- ◆ the ways in which you have explored and developed your musical ideas
- ◆ strengths and/or areas which may be improved

My piece of music is called "Ein Spaziergang am See" which is German for: a relaxing stroll at the lake. I chose this title because my composition reminds me of my favourite place in my home Austria. There's a beautiful river which flows in a big lake and when I go for a walk there, it's the most relaxing thing on earth. You can only hear the river sometimes it's a bit wild when there's a storm and other times it's so calm you can hear the birds twitter.

It was important to me to transfer those emotions into my compositions. My base melody on the piano reminds of a floating river because of the triplets going up and down. And I also included the cello because it brings lots of memories back because I, myself play the cello as well. For my piece I let myself inspire by "the swan" by Camille Saint-Saëns, which is my favourite composer of this epoch, which also includes a piano and a cello.

I wanted to keep it simple with the key of C Major, because it is easier to play on the cello and you can focus more on dynamics. I experimented with several ideas before settling on a 6/8 time which, I think, gives the piece a flowing atmosphere.

It starts with eight bars solo piano with a diminuendo from mezzo forte to piano at the last two bars. The cello joins in with the dynamic mezzo forte while playing dotted quarter notes with lots of vibrato.

The piece goes on with the piano playing the same soft melody while in bar 17, the cello starts playing triplets as well.

I wanted to create a dramatic atmosphere with letting the piano play dotted half notes and the cello now plays the base melody in bar 25. In bar 33, I want to create even more drama with letting the cello as well play dotted half notes with a crescendo from mezzo forte to forte played with vibrato. In the next passage, I let the cello play a scale solo part with semiquavers played in forte followed by the piano taking over this rhythm with the cello playing notes in piano. Both instruments play with ritardando. The piece ends with a perfect cadence.

Originally, the piece should have ended with the cello playing some long notes in piano but when I listened to the finished piece, I felt that the ending wasn't satisfying enough so I changed it to a C Major chord.

What I really like about my piece is the melody and the harmony between the two instruments. However, I now think I've used the tune too often. But overall I am fully happy with my composition.