

# Candidate 1 — Waltz

## Composing music

This composition, a waltz, is for a single line melody with piano accompaniment and is in ternary form.

The single line melody is written for piano and is accompanied by piano throughout. This makes the melody hard to hear, especially as the candidate has chosen to use the same note range in both the melody and the right hand of the piano accompaniment. Another choice of instrument to play the melodic line would have helped to distinguish it from the accompaniment.

The opening four-bar rhythm of the melody is repeated throughout the A sections of the piece with a very small variation at the cadence points in bars 15 to 16; this small variation is repeated in bars 47 to 48. In the middle section, from bars 17 to 32, the rhythm of the left-hand part of the accompaniment has been developed from the original minim/crotchet to quavers, a rest and a crotchet, still using the root and fifth of the chord.

The chord structure and melody are well-shaped and although the candidate's review makes no mention of their choice of chords, a variety of chords (G, Am, Bm, C, D and Em) are used fairly effectively in section A. In the middle section the chord structure has been slightly changed with only the chords of G, Bm, Am, Em and D being used.

The opening four-bar melody has been altered in a very simple way by changing the last note at the end of each phrase, showing some development. New melodic ideas are introduced in the melody in bar 17 giving some variety; however, this eight-bar melody is almost identical when repeated in bars 25 to 32.

The final section from bar 33 is mainly a repeat of the first Section A, although minimal changes have been made in the bassline, as identified by the candidate in their review.

At times, the candidate's use of harmony in the melodic line is not always appropriate, creating some clashes with the accompaniment and the underlying chords. For example, in bar 5 the chord used is B minor while the melody, through the use of a dotted crotchet E, creates dissonance with the accompaniment.

This composition has been developed satisfactorily and with a simplistic and straightforward use of the elements.

The candidate was awarded **10 marks**.

### **Composing review**

The review of this composition gives a limited account of the main decisions made, with no mention of the key or chords which are used. Although the chords are marked in the score, there is no mention of them in the review.

The review shows sufficient explanation of the exploration and development of musical ideas. There is some explanation of the candidate's experimentation with melody and rhythm.

The candidate has shown little identification of strengths and/or areas for improvement. The candidate should have referred to musical features of their composition and expanded more when commenting on this element. For example, they have said that the composition 'flows through very fluently' but they might have given more musical detail in relation to this statement.

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.