

Mahler: Ruckert Lieder: 'Urn Mitternacht' [1905]

General Questions that might be asked about this extract

- 1 What is **lieder**?
 - 2 Who was Ruckert? What other verses by him were set by Mahler?
 - 3 Try to read about the other Ruckert songs and discover the uniqueness of 'Urn Mitternacht' in the group.
 - 4 What is unusual about the scoring?
 - 6 What are the symphonic links of this song?
 - 7 What are the main melodic figures and how are they developed?
 - 8 Analyse the chording of the modulation in bars 21-23.
 - 9 Analyse the chord progressions in bars 26 and 31.
 - 10 Describe the tonality of the extract.
 - 11 Discuss Mahler's use of dissonance.
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Section A

Bars 1 – 5

1. Identify the three motives that Mahler builds this song on.
2. What tonal area are we in?
3. What mode is the bassoon part at bar 2–3 in?
4. What note is prolonged all the way through?
5. Comment on Mahler's use of imitation.
6. Why is the note D in the vocal part significant?
7. At what point is the tonic established?
8. What two chords does Mahler use all the way through this section?
9. Comment on the Horn line at bar 12.
10. How does Mahler create dissonance?

Section B

Bars 23 – 33 + 34

11. Comment on the melodic lines and compare to section A.
12. There are Bach influences at work here. Why might this be true?
13. Mark any suspensions, appoggiaturas and false relations.
14. What tonal area are we in?
15. Identify a whole tone scale passage.
16. Comment on the tonality at bar 33.