

Stravinsky and The Rite Of Spring

Answer the following questions in relation to the extract

Bars 76 – 84

1. Comment on Stravinsky's use of regular and irregular rhythms.
2. How do the Horn's suggest that we are not in duple time?
3. What tonal area(s) are we in?
4. What name is given to music that is in two or more keys?
5. Comment on Stravinsky's orchestration.

Bars 84 – 88

6. How would you describe the music at this point?
7. What tonal areas does Stravinsky work around at this point?
8. How does the piccolo part relate to the Eb seventh first inversion chord of the previous upper strings?
9. At which bar is duple time clear in the music?

Bars 88 – 97

10. Name three things that are the same here as the opening.
11. Russian folk music is built up of short motives that repeat. Find an example of this and comment upon it.
12. What part acts as a constant between bars 84 and 102?

Bars 98 – 102

13. At this point Stravinsky uses polytonal ostinato. Identify each ostinato.
14. Mark a) Cross rhythms and b) syncopation.
15. Comment on the intervals in bars 101 and 109.

Issues for the whole extract

16. How does Stravinsky use silence to create texture against textures?
17. Give an example of 'heterophonic'.
18. Why does the composer use a pedal point that is doubled between the horn and violin?
19. Comment on the overall orchestration.
20. Give a structure to this extract with reference to the texture.

Homework:

“The Rite of Spring is characterized by harmonies that are extremely dissonant – often polytonal – and savage, pounding rhythms. There are frequent ostinati patterns and polyrhythmic effects. Stravinsky’s melodies are simple (sometimes folk-like) and constructed from short motives, repeated and varied with shifts of stress and accent.”

Write an essay discussing the above quotation with illustrated musical examples. To what extent do you agree with this statement?