

Music Lab



Halloween Videos

Adapted from: <http://heidispianonotes.blogspot.com/2013/10/halloween-music-listening-lab.html>

Find the Halloween Music Lab on Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/studio88piano/halloween-music-lab/>

Bach Toccata and Fugue in D minor for PIANO (3:00)

Listen to the first part of this performance (Toccata – stops at 3:00) then answer the following question:

1. A Toccata is a piece including fast moving lightly fingered passages. When does this song start to sound like a toccata? (what minute in the video)
2. Do you think the performer is using the pedal? Why or why not?

Bach Toccata and Fugue in D minor for ORGAN (10:00)

Listen to this whole performance answer the following questions:

1. Bach was a Baroque composer. The piano was not invented during his life, so his keyboard pieces were actually composed for organ or harpsichord. How does the organ sound different than the piano?
2. A fugue is a piece that usually has 2 or more voices (melodies) that often imitate each other. When does the piece move into the Fugue? (what is the time location on the video?)
3. Do you think the Toccata and Fugue both fit well with a “Halloween” theme or just one or the other? Why?
4. Different sets of keyboards on an organ are called manuals. How many manuals do you see on this organ?
5. The lower "giant keys" played by the feet are called the pedal board. (You can see it at 6:50) They are laid out just like the keys of a keyboard with “black and white” keys. Are there passages in the piece that are played only by the feet? If so, can you recall how many passages?
6. Does this song sound:
A. Major throughout B. Minor throughout C. Some major and some minor passages
7. Did you enjoy this piece? Why or why not?

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Now watch the video of The Toccata and Fugue played on a glass harp!

Listen to Classics for Kids - Edward Grieg Program 5 - Halloween Music for More spooky Halloween Music (6:30)

Jarrold Radnich – Virtuoso Piano Solo – Harry Potter (3:00)

1. Do you remember the musical term for the passages when he runs his hand up and down the keys in one long motion? (It happens several times in the first couple minutes)
2. Have you ever seen or read Harry Potter? If so, do you recognize the piece?
3. What makes this piece “spooky” and “Halloween-like?”

Please do not click on the button that says “Click to Subscribe” at the end of the video.

Danse Macabre by Saint-Saens (8:11)

Written in 1874, “Danse Macabre” is French for “Dance of Death” He first wrote this piece for voice and piano but later reworked it for orchestra with violin solo parts. Listen to all the elements that make it “scary”, especially paying attention to these:

- Mysterious soft, opening (The harp plays a D 12 times to imitate a clock striking midnight)
- Minor key to create a dark, somber mood
- Sudden changes of dynamics, from very soft to super-loud
- The use of triton, a very dissonant interval
- Sharp, punctuated rhythms
- Use of xylophone to imitate cracking bones
- Fast tempo, creating a sense of urgency, rush