

Vivaldi's Autumn 3rd Movement - Lesson Plan Frannie Goldstein

The third movement of Autumn describes a fox hunt. The original sonnet reads:

*The hunters emerge at dawn,
ready for the chase,
with horns and dogs and cries.
Their quarry flees while they give chase.
Terrified and wounded, the prey struggles on,
but, harried, dies.*


I have taken a bit of poetic license and I tell the students that fox hunting was a sport a long time ago when Vivaldi was alive. I do not read the original sonnet and I only say that at the end the fox is caught.

This is such a great descriptive piece of music and such a wonderful example of Rondo form that I feel comfortable with explaining things this way.

In the first lesson, I teach the students the words that I have made up for the theme. They do not follow the theme exactly but they are clear enough for the kids to be able to follow the music.

Au - tumn time is Au - tumn time is Au - tumn time is com- ing, yes

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Au - tumn time is Au - tumn time is Au - tumn time is here.

More advanced students can use this melody to study the rhythm  or sing the melody in solfege.

In the following lessons the students can easily follow the story of the hunt using the A section as their guide.

The following is the story as outlined by the form:

Autumn time is coming

Blare of the hunters' horns

Autumn time is coming

Come, let the hunt begin

Autumn time is coming

Dashing through the woods to catch the fox

Autumn time is coming

Everyone tries to catch the fox

Autumn time is coming

Finally the fox is caught

Autumn time is coming