
Music Lab

Musical Modelling — Unit Four

Consider the musicals you outlined in Unit One. Select six of the solo songs you focused on in units two and three and type the lyrics of each song separating them into the appropriate quatrains and identify them as A sections and B sections (if you have additional sections, label them C, D, and so on). Once you have completed typing them, look for similarities and differences between the similar sections.

- Does each A section match exactly in the amount of syllables in each line?
- Are the stresses exactly the same in each of the corresponding lines?
- What kinds of rhyme schemes are present? Are they only at the end of the line or internal as well?
- Can you identify the climax in the lyric in each quatrain or stanza?
- Can you identify the climax of the entire song?

Next, consider the music for each separate section. As much as possible, try to consider the music independently of the lyric.

- Does each A section match exactly the others? What about the B sections?
- If there are differences, are they only at the ends of the sections?
- Do the ends of the sections make sense cadentially to continue into the section that follows?
- Can you identify the high point in each phrase of each section?
- Do those musical high points correspond to the climax points in the lyric?
- Can you identify the musical high points in each quatrain or stanza?
- Can you identify the musical peak of the entire song?

From the six songs you selected, can you identify what kinds of songs they are?

- Are they ballades, charm songs, comedy songs or musical scenes?
- What are the observations you made to determine the category above?
- Are there any songs which fit exactly into the category?
- Are there any songs which seem to pull from or fit into more than one category? If so, why?
- How do the song categorizations correspond to dramatic function within the shows?
- Do any of the songs seem to run *counter* to your expectations in terms of dramatic function?
(for example, a ballade in the middle of a fight scene)

Finally, if a song you have selected does not seem to fit any of the expectations that we have examined in this unit, does it offer a more successful model? If so, what is the model? Is it one that you find useful?