



Learning outcomes (what?):

To understand how the music in 'Something's Coming' works

Process (how?):

Through performing part of the song and examining musical features closely.

Success criteria:

- A successful class performance with all taking part;
- All will understand the most important musical features;
- Some will understand all the musical features identified.

“SOMETHING’S COMING”

How is the song structured?

Part of Song	Length
Intro	Bars 1 - 3
Section A	Bars 4 - 39
Section B	Bars 40 - 105
Section B, shorter	Bars 106 - 140
Section A, shorter	Bars 141 – 157
Outro	Bar 158

MUSICAL FEATURES

1. Jazzy harmony – ordinary chords have added “blue” notes

The image shows a musical score for voice and piano. The voice part is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are "If I can wait". The piano part consists of two staves, a treble and a bass clef, with a brace on the left. The piano part features a chord with a blue note (F#) in the bass line.

Voice

If I can wait

Piano

MUSICAL FEATURES

3. Tri-tone motif (three complete tones/augmented 4th) appears

The image displays a musical score for a voice and piano. The voice part is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are "soon as it shows". A tri-tone motif is highlighted with a bracket and the number "3" above it, consisting of three notes: G#4, A4, and B4. The piano accompaniment is written on two staves, treble and bass clef, with the same key signature. The tri-tone motif is mirrored in the piano part, appearing as a chord in the right hand and a single note in the left hand.

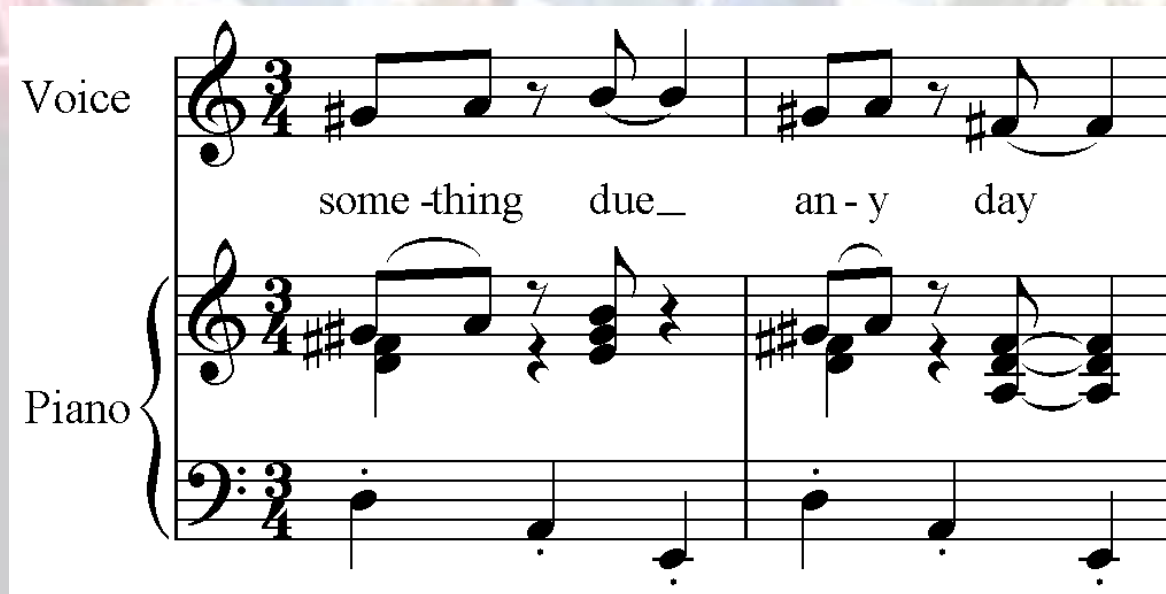
Voice

soon as it shows

Piano

MUSICAL FEATURES

4. Short riffs – lots of little ideas



The image shows a musical score for a short riff. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system is for the voice, and the second system is for the piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are "some -thing due_ an - y day".

Voice

some -thing due_ an - y day

Piano

The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes in the right hand, and a simple bass line of quarter notes in the left hand. The melody in the voice part is a simple eighth-note sequence with a slight melodic contour.

MUSICAL FEATURES

5. Cross-rhythms – different sorts of rhythms working against each other

The image shows a musical score for voice and piano. The voice part is in 2/4 time and features a melody with three triplet markings over the words "Or whis - tling down the ri - ver". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment, and the left hand plays a bass line with a different rhythmic pattern, creating a cross-rhythm effect. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

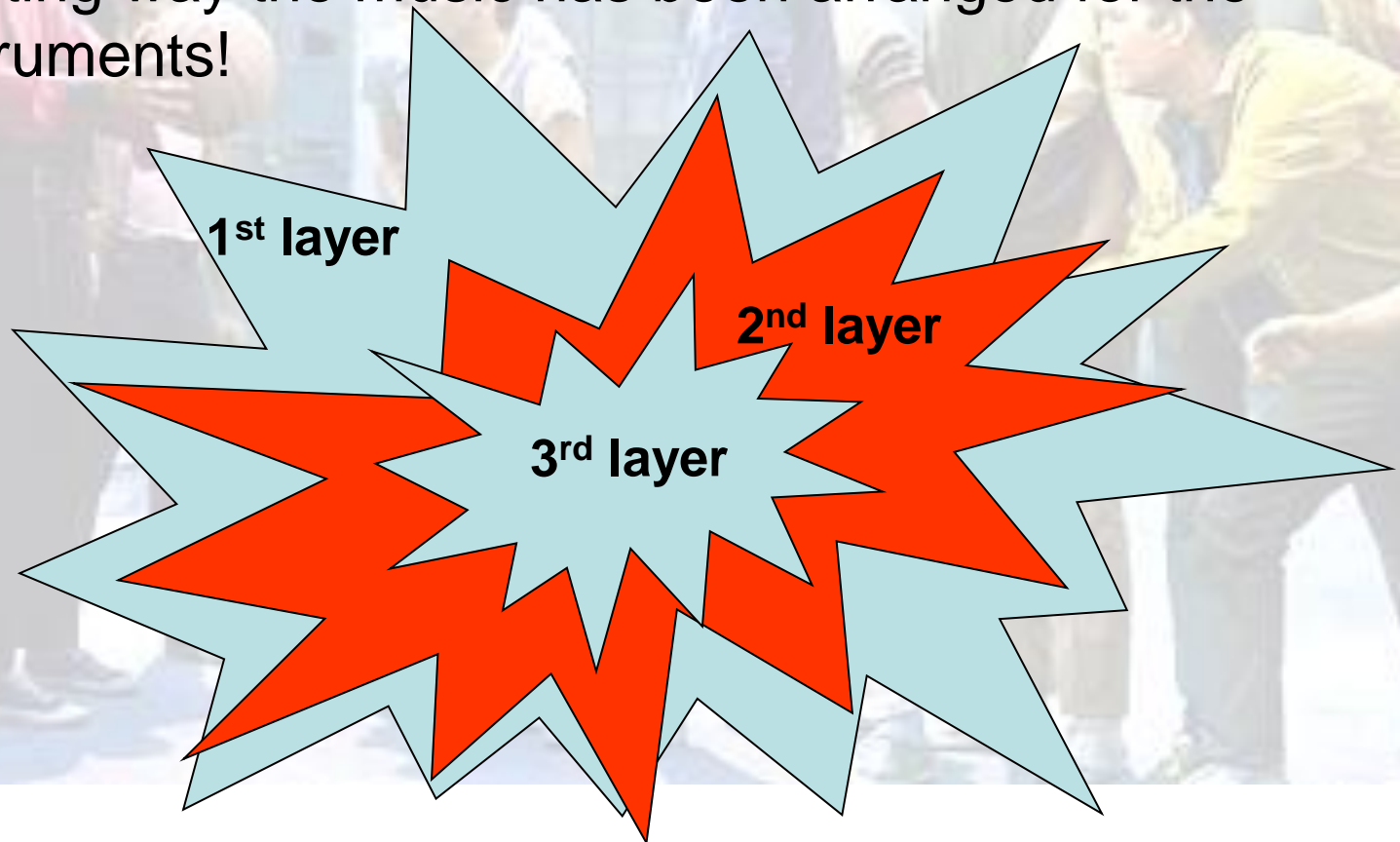
Voice

Or whis - tling down the ri - ver

Piano

MUSICAL FEATURES

6. Interesting textures – lots of different layers in the exciting way the music has been arranged for the instruments!



MUSICAL FEATURES

7. Combination of short phrases and long sustained notes

The image displays a musical score for voice and piano, illustrating the combination of short phrases and long sustained notes. The score is written in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#).

First System:

- Voice:** The melody consists of a short phrase "who" followed by a long sustained note, and another short phrase "knows" followed by a long sustained note.
- Piano:** The accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords, providing a steady accompaniment for the voice.

Second System (starting at measure 4):

- Voice:** The melody consists of a long sustained note, followed by a short phrase "It's", another long sustained note, and a final short phrase "on - ly just out of reach".
- Piano:** The accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords.

A BIT MORE DETAIL

- ✓ Song is in D major and fast tempo
- ✓ Written for 'Tony' – tenor voice (and orchestra)
- ✓ Beginning riff: uses tri-tone, push rhythm, jazz harmony, three note bass ostinato
- ✓ “Could be?” use tonic and dominant notes of scale (D & A)
- ✓ Intro and sung melody based on same riff
- ✓ Word painting (e.g. “it may come cannon balling”)
- ✓ Accents on weak parts of beats (“sky”, “eye”)
- ✓ Modulation to C major at bar 31
- ✓ Um-pah on beat pattern at bar 32 now contrasts with riff
- ✓ Word setting is almost entirely *syllabic*.
- ✓ The song finishes on a C natural (not D, the tonic) – sounds incomplete...something *is* coming!

QUESTIONS



1. What vocal range is 'Something's Coming' written for?
2. What is a tritone?
3. Why did Bernstein use a tritone throughout 'West Side Story'?
4. What is another name for the syncopated rhythm used throughout this song?
5. What is the key of the song?
6. Give an example of jazz harmony found in the song.
7. What is the word used to describe the many repeating patterns in this song?
8. Which 2 notes are used when Tony sings 'could be'?