

Music

Science and magic

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Discuss the composer's use of pitch and duration in this excerpt.

The timings indicated in the table below are there show you where the sections start and finish. Duration has nothing to do with how long a section is or the length of the piece/excerpt.

Intro	A 00:00:11			B 00:00:41
aerophone - melody	A (x2)	B (x2)	A	three ascending notes by aerophone
strings - harmony				strings - melody
drums - rhythm	female vocal melody four bar phrase (x2)	female vocal melody two bar phrase (x2)	female vocal melody four bar phrase	guitar - harmony drums - rhythm

Intro

- **nasal, reedy** sounding aerophone (melody) plays a four bar phrase with a lot of ornamented notes
- high pitched and low pitched strings (harmony) begin a drone that continues until the B section
- a large, **resonant, deep** sounding drum plays a rhythmic role:



- a smaller, **tight** sounding drum plays a rhythmically complex ostinato, with accents on some notes

A

- this A section has a micro structure of A B A. The first phrase (A) is four bars repeated; second phrase (B) is two bars repeated; last phrase (A) is four bars sung once.
- **nasal** sounding female voice sings the melody with the first note of the A theme sung three times, sometimes with ornamentation
- narrow pitch range in vocal melody
- the A themes both ascend then descend by steps and the B theme does the opposite (descending first):



- drum plays the same rhythm (twice in the first A theme) throughout the overall A section:
- a **steely** sounding chordophone plays a strummed, accented note, usually on the first beat of each phrase (sometimes on a different beat)



B

- following a strummed note by the previous chordophone the drone by the strings and the large drum cease playing
- a **warm, airy**, flute-like aerophone begins the new melody in an alto pitch range
- the flute melody begins with a two note ascending anacrusis and stops after the first beat in the next bar
- strings (harmony) in unison then play a few repeated notes and some minims and crotchets that move by step, while a **warm**, strummed acoustic guitar plays several minims
- the aerophone (flute) then returns with the melody to play the last five notes of the phrase
- the smaller, more rhythmically complex drum fades out (decrescendos) in the first few notes of the aerophones return
- the excerpt ends on a paused note by strings and aerophone

The excerpt is in 4/4 and has an *Allegro* tempo.

Text in **purple** indicates tone colour words. Students that include these words and link them to the concepts in the question demonstrate higher order thinking skills.