

The rain and the rainbow Op 65 No 8 (Prokofiev)

**What does the title mean?**

This is a pictorial title where the music depicts the imagery of rain and a rainbow. The rain is the repeated single quavers whereas the rainbow is the long lyrical melody.

**What key is this in?**

This is basically C major but all keys are used to help depict the colour of the rainbow. This includes C major scale and black key cluster chords.

**What is the form?**

Ternary

Section A bars 1-8

Section B 9-16 - this is the rainbow melodic section

Section A1 17-22

**What period is this from?**

20th century

**What is the style?**

- use of chromaticism
- Pictorial pieces, use of imagery
- Use of non-functional harmony (not just major and minor)
- Use of small motifs e.g. the repeated quaver raindrops motif
- Use of accented dissonance
- Focus on texture and colour over melody
- Incorporation of expressive extended techniques such as pedalling for colour

**Notation:**

Andante - at an easy walking pace

Tenuto - hold the notes for their full value (stress the notes)

4/4 - simple quadruple time - 4 crotchet beats in a bar

Accent - play the note loudly (marcato)

Crescendo - gradually getting louder

Diminuendo - gradually getting softer

Forte - loud

Mezzo forte - moderately loud

Piano - soft

Slur - play legato - smoothly connected

Poco. Cresc.- a little getting gradually louder

Dolce - play sweetly (and softer)

Ledger lines - extends the stave for higher and lower notes

Rit. - ritenuto - immediately held back

Mezzo piano - moderately soft