

## LISTENING GUIDE

### *Romeo and Juliet, Overture-Fantasy After Shakespeare*

Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky

1840–1893

*Begun 1869; Revised 1870; Revised 1881*

Form: Sonata Allegro

#### INTRODUCTION Andante



1. CLARINETS & BASSOONS begin solemn "Friar Lawrence" THEME



2. Low STRINGS begin intense idea joined by FRENCH HORNS
3. Exquisite TRANSITION begins and HARP plays idea 3 times

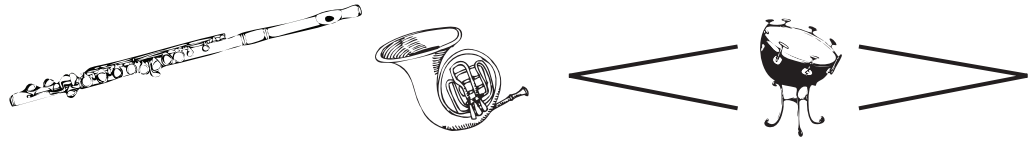


4. PIZZICATO STRINGS accompany return of music from # 1
5. Music of #'s 2 and 3 return
6. CELLOS begin anxious mood... WOODWINDS comment



7. "Friar Lawrence" THEME is played FASTER and LOUDER

8. WOODWINDS and FRENCH HORNS IMITATE



9. Soft TIMPANI ends as music from #2 returns briefly

10. STRINGS and WOODWINDS answer each other



## EXPOSITION 1st THEME



11. "Capulets and Montagues Conflict" THEME

*Allegro giusto*



12. VIOLINS and WOODWINDS IMITATE each other



## TRANSITION



13. STRETTO almost playful... passage occurs 2 times

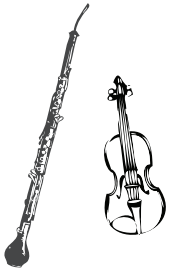
14. Tension builds with rising pairs of VIOLIN/WOODWIND IMITATIONS

15. "Conflict" created by UNISON STRING SCALES  
and WIND/PERCUSSION SYNCOPATION

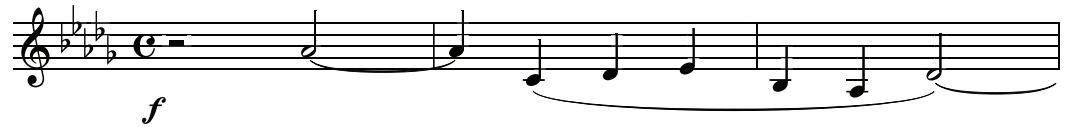
1st THEME returns ***ff*** (very loud)

16. Things calm down ***p*** (soft)... then ***pp*** (very soft)

## 2nd THEME



17. VIOLAS and ENGLISH HORN begin "Romeo & Juliet Love" THEME  
Romeo



MUTED VIOLINS continue

Juliet



18. Both "Romeo" and "JULIET" continue

FLUTES, OBOES and FRENCH HORNS dominate

## CLOSING SECTION

19.

Question

STRINGS

Answer

BASSOON

2X

Question

CELLO

Answer

ENGLISH HORN

2X

ENGLISH HORN, CLARINET & BASSOON 2X

VIOLAS alone conclude

## DEVLEOPMENT

20. 1st THEME gets "developed," changed in quiet way

21. "Friar Lawrence" even makes appearances

22. "Romeo and Juliet" seem missing... or are they?

23. "Friar Lawrence," 1st Theme "Capulets & Montagues Conflict" and "Juliet" trade spotlight and appear together



24. Music becomes more and more agitated

25. TRUMPET takes command playing “FRIAR LAWRENCE” THEME  
TUTTI (all remaining players) punctuate with 1st THEME fragment

26. VIOLINS, VIOLAS & CELLOS break into “riot” of UNISON SCALES  
like #        above

## RECAPITULATION 1st THEME

## 2nd THEME

27. Like # 11 above

28. Who appears first... “Romeo” or “Juliet”? JULIET

29.  CRESCENDO (getting louder)

30. “Romeo” (STRINGS) returns “Juliet” remains present (HORNS)

31. Two ASCENDING SEQUENCES  then 

32. THE POINT of greatest emotional intensity then 

## CLOSING SECTION 2nd THEME

33. CELLO & WOODWIND STRETTO alters 2nd THEME in painful way



2 times

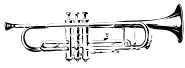


34. FRENCH HORN & WOODWIND STRETTO continues “omen”



35. “Romeo & Juliet’s” final embrace before...

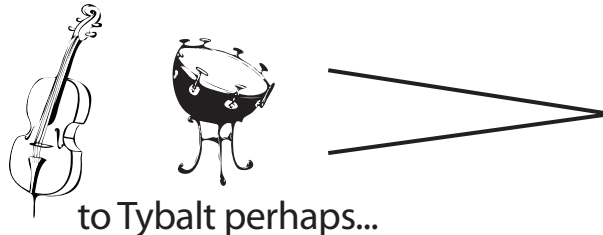
36. 1st THEME interrupts... family hatred destroys



37. 1st THEME followed by ominous “Friar Lawrence” THEME 2 times

38. ASCENDING and DESCENDING SEQUENCES prolong battle

39. CELLOS, CONTRABASSES and TIMPANI deliver “death blow”



## CODA (extra ending)

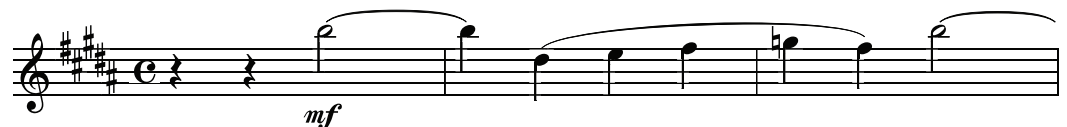
40. TUBA, CONTRABASSES & TIMPANI sustain B-NATURAL PEDAL POINT

Altered 2nd THEME occurs 2 times



41. Uplifting WOODWIND CHORALE or HYMN reaffirms life

42. CHORDS in HARP lead to hopeful version of 2nd THEME



43.   propels powerful UNISON ending on B-Natural ***ff***