

Shostakovich piano concerto no.1 in C minor, Op. 35

Name:

Date:

Listen to the fast and furious final movement of Shostakovich's piano concerto no. 1 in C minor which centres on a three-way argument between two solo instruments and the orchestra. Answer the following questions.

1. Which instrument rudely interrupts the main theme played by the violins at the beginning of the movement?

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2. The argument between the piano and strings becomes more and more heated. Which instrument then joins in with a cheeky fanfare-like theme?

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3. Later on in the movement, the mood is threatening and the piano and trumpet are still arguing. When the persistent first theme reappears, which instrument plays it first and which plays it second?

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4. A little later, the trumpet clearly feels he has won the battle, but does the piano agree? What instruments are making the clattering sound in the background?

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5. In the final section of Shostakovich's concerto, which of the following sentences do you think best describes what is happening:

- The piano is the winner of the argument.
- The trumpet has the last word.
- All the instruments come together in agreement.
- The orchestra waves the white flag.
- Nobody in this battle is willing to admit defeat.

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