

3.7 AS 91422 - Analyse a substantial musical work

Te Tangi a Wairaka (The Cry of Wairaka) - Jack Bewley

Structure/Form

This work was written in three sections, each subtitled with the sections individually telling a different part of the story. It is noted that each section begins with a solo conch signal which helps distinguish when each section starts and ends.

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Section 1 subtitled 'From Hawaiiki' runs for approximately 2 minutes. It goes from bars 1-82. This section describes the voyage of the Mataatua waka from Hawaiiki, and the perilous storm they had to travel through to get to Aotearoa. It introduces themes, melodies and programmatic features repeated throughout the piece, such as the melody of the waiata, 'Hoea Hoea Ra', and the upturned cymbal on the timpani for a wind effect.

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Section 2 subtitled 'Ōhinemataroa', runs for approximately 2 minutes, starting at bar 83 and finishing at bar 118. This section details the arrival of the waka in Whakatane, and it is slow and calm, giving a tranquil effect before the return of the storm. This section introduces the use of the Koauau and the Purerehua to create an authentic Māori sound.

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Section 3 subtitled 'Wairaka's Decision', runs for approximately 3 minutes, going from bars 119-194 (the end of the work). This section is the climax of the work, with it detailing the waka beginning to float away while the tribesmen are away, and how Wairaka breaks the tapu and goes against her culture but, as a woman, saving the waka, in which she cries "Kia Whakatāne au I ahau", translating to "let me act as a man" which is how Whakatāne got its name. This section introduces the Wairaka theme and chant, performed by the flugelhorn, as it is sweet but also strong in tone.

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