Romantic music X

Throughout history, literature and painting have collected the theme of death and have presented it to us, in addition to a skeleton carrying a scythe, as a dancing specter that drags with its dance those who it wishes to mow down.



In 1875, the work entitled ***Danza Macabre***, inspired by the poetry of the same title by the poet **Henri Cazali**, was premiered in France, the homeland of the composer **Camille Saint-Saëns**.



¡HAY QUÉ VER QUÉ VIDA TAN DURA ME HA TOCADO!

Danza Macabra

Zig, zig, zig, la Muerte con cadencia
golpea una tumba con su talón,
la Muerte a media noche toca una danza
zig, zig, zag, con su violín.
El viento del invierno sopla y la noche está oscura,
se oyen gemidos de los tilos.
Los esqueletos blanquecinos van a través de las sombras
corriendo y saltando sobre sus grandes lienzos.
Zig, zig, zig cada uno brincando
se oye el entrechocar de los huesos de los danzantes.
....
Pero, ¡silí!, de repente dejan la ronda,
chocan entre ellos, huyen; el gallo ha cantado.

Henri Cazali
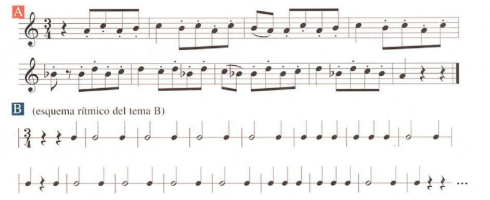
Introducción

Desarrollo de la acción

Desenlace

This work is structured in three parts, as you can see in the attached diagram: an **introduction** where the two main themes of the work appear after a short entry; a **development of the action**, in which the themes undergo various transformations and even a new theme appears; and a third as a **denouement**, in which the themes are shown again followed by a coda or concluding fragment.

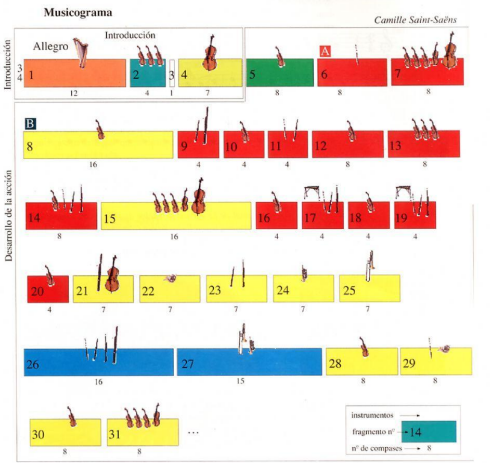
It is midnight, the clock strikes twelve strokes (the harp), some violin notes are heard that introduce an atmosphere of mystery followed by theme A.





The ghostly character of the music becomes diabolical with the appearance of Death playing and dancing (theme B) inviting all the specters to come out of their graves and dance. The xylophone brings a new coloration to the orchestra symbolizing the noise of the bones of the skeletons colliding with each other.

Later, the dance of Death becomes more and more agitated and takes different forms. The denouement begins with the crowing of the rooster that sounds announcing the dawn, the Death abruptly stops dancing and all the skeletons and specters withdraw. Calm returns and light reigns. (This part is not recorded in the audio, nor is it part of the development).



Exercise 1: After following the musicogram above, answer the following questions:

- What instruments play theme A for the first time?
- And the second time?



- At the moment in which the orchestra interprets theme A, which of the following expressions do you think will be written in the score? Mark it with a tick.

p *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

- Pay attention to the audition and complete the following chart about the correspondence between instruments and characters.

Instruments	Characters
Bells	
Violin	
Xylophone	

- Point out two fragments with strong speed contrast.
- Similarly, look for two others that are opposed in intensity.
- Indicate two fragments in which the melodies are identical but the timbre with which they are interpreted is different.
- After listening carefully to the audition again, mark a tick in the corresponding box, depending on whether you think the characteristic belongs to theme A or theme B.

	rítmico	melódico	agresivo	delicado	decidido	tranquilo	ligado	picado
Tema A								
Tema B								

LIVEWORKSHEETS