

Picture Music 22 – Three Forms, Barbara Hepworth

*Look at this picture of
Barbara Hepworth's sculpture "Three Forms" from 1934.
It is made of Serravezza Marble,
has dimensions in millimetres of 210 x 532 x 343,
and weighs 23 kgs.*

*Compose some music which reflects this sculpture in some way.
Here are some ideas which may help you:*

① - *There is very little colour in this sculpture,
although you may notice the reflections in the marble
and the shadows cast by the light,
which give some variation to the prevailing white.
In music the equivalent of colour and light is "timbre".
This is a word that refers to the sounds or "colours" you use in the music.
How could you select and vary the timbres you use
to imitate Hepworth's combination of white with reflections and shadows?*

② - *There are three forms in this sculpture, as the title suggests.
Each of the three is quite similar but not identical.
Describe the three shapes,
then compose three musical ideas which could be described in the same way.*

③ - *Think about how you are going to put your three white, musical ideas
together in your music.
This is called structure in both art and music.
The sizes and spacing of the three shapes
are in some way proportional to each other.
Can you figure it out?
Apply these same proportions to your music.*

④ - *If you were allowed to hold, touch, feel this sculpture,
what would be your description?
I think each shape would be cold and smooth.
Compose some music that is cold and smooth.*

⑤ - *I have an image of these three shapes rolling off their stand.
I think they each would roll in different ways.
Compose some three-form music that rolls off its stand.*