What to Listen For

Tan Dun: Farewell, from Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

Here’s what to listen for in Tan Dun’s Farewell, from Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.

■ Solo cello and erhu with hand drum and Western orchestra

Farewell from Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, is performed by solo cello, solo erhu (a Chinese fiddle), hand drum, and Western orchestra. Listen to the cello, erhu, hand drum, and orchestra in this excerpt: [0:34–1:04].

■ Texture has two main lines

The texture of Farewell has two main lines, played by cello and erhu. Listen to the two main melodic lines in this excerpt: [1:05–1:37].

■ Consonant accompaniment

The strings play consonant accompaniment in Farewell. Listen to the harmonious and stable harmonies in this excerpt: [0:00–0:33].

■ Duple-meter melody; irregular pulses in hand drum

In Farewell, the regular duple-meter melody sounds with irregular pulses in the hand drum. Listen to the differences in pulse between melody and drum in this excerpt: [1:38–2:06].

■ Theme and variations

Farewell has a theme and variations structure. Listen to the theme: [0:00–0:33]. Over the course of this work, the theme is varied in pitch, range, and dynamics.

So remember to listen for texture of two main lines played by cello and erhu in duple meter; consonant harmonies played by Western orchestra; irregular rhythms played by hand drum; and theme and variations.