**William Tell Overture – Gioacchino Rossini (Overview & comparison of all sections)**

Overture = a piece of music written as an introduction to an opera or similar work that followed (this overture does not contain pieces of music from the opera)

Programme music = music that describes a scene or tells a story

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| **Name of Section** | **Sunrise in the Alps** | **The Storm** | **Shepherds on the Mountainside** | **The Revolution** |
| **Background of story** | Early morning calm before the storm. William does not know that he will be asked to shoot apple off his son’s head with bow & arrow. | A storm brews up over Lake Lucerne on Tell’s way to prison. He rows to safety and escapes. | Calm after the storm. Bird song & shepherds tending to their animals in the aftermath of the storm. Ends with Tell killing the emperor | The Swiss revolt in rejoice that the emperor is dead & reclaim their country. |
| **Instrumentation: (Most N.B. instruments)** | -**5 solo cellos**-**Timpani** *(roll = thunder)* | -**Strings** *(Tremolo = suspense & tension*-**Woodwind** *(Raindrops & birdcall afterwards)*-**Trombone**-**Percussion** *(Thunder)*-**Tutti** *(full fury of storm)* | -**Cor anglais** *(Alpine Horn)*-**Flutes** *(Birds)*-**Triangle** *(cow bell)* | -**Trumpets** *(fanfare)*-**Horns** |
| **Tempo** | *Andante* | *Allegro* | *Andantino* | *Allegro vivace* |
| **Key** | **E minor** changing to **E mjr** | **G major** | **G major** | **E major** |
| **Time signature** | **3/4** | **4/4** | **3/8** | **2/4** |
| **Texture** | *Homophonic* | *Homophonic & polyphonic* (bar 116) | *Homophonic & Polyphonic* (bar 197 onwards) | *Homophonic* |
| **Mood/atmosphere** | ***Peaceful*** | ***Dramatic & aggitated*** | ***Peaceful*** | ***Exciting, urgent & triumphant*** |
| **Melodic features** | -> Begins with 5 bar phrase with **rising arpeggio/chord** in Eminor (bar 1-5)-> This is then **repeated a tone higher** (bar 6 - 10) | -> Repeated notes->**Sotto voce** – extreme decrescendo (bar 54)-> **Ascending & descending chromatic scales** ( bar 92 & 94) | -> **Swiss pastorale**-> melody **begins on cor anglais then repeated an octave higher**->lots of **leaps**-> **Flute descant** is full of **ornamentation** | -> **Fanfare** opens section (bar 226)-> **Gallop theme** (bar 243)-> **New melody** (bar 260)-> Section **ends getting gradually louder & faster.**-> **Ascending & descending semiquavers**-> **Tutta forza** – with force |
| **Rhythmic features** | -> **Semiquavers** (bar 1 & 6)-> **Triplets** (bar 19)-> Tied notes -> Dotted notes-> **Syncopation** (bar 41) | -> **Tempo picks up**->Lots of **semiquavers (wind whipping up)**->**Semiquavers falling & rising at height of storm** (bar 92 onwards)->**Rests = add tension & suspense** (bar 72-74) | ->**Semiquaver triplets** (bar 176 – 195)-> **Demisemiquavers in polyphonic flute descant** (bar 198 onwards) | -> **Full bars of semiquavers** (bar 302 – 345)->**Syncopation** (bar 277 – 278) |