SONG Virtual Composition Project 2021
Listening Task 3

Follow this link to reach a recording of a song called *Motettu de tristura* ('Song of Sadness') by the Italian composer Luciano Berio:
https://open.spotify.com/track/0anTovbA8PMv628tDlc8sM?si=qjY9KVr3QyuBB5m4I3Osxw

This is another contemporary arrangement of a traditional folk song. Originally, the song comes from the Italian island of Sardinia.

Structure

See if you can follow through the following structure in the song:

Intro (instrumental)
Verse – Verse – Verse
Instrumental
Verse – Verse – Verse
Outro (instrumental)

- Is the introduction music used in the verses as well, or is the verse music different?

Word Painting

Word painting is a very effective technique used in song writing. It simply means trying to create sounds that match or convey the words or ideas in the text of the song.

- A nightingale is referenced in the text of this song. Which instrument is used to paint a picture of the bird?

Which of these has the composer used to paint a picture of sadness?
- Lack of pulse or rhythm
- Aggressive rhythms
- Lots of low notes
- Grungy and unclear harmonies
- Varied and dramatic vocal lines
- Lots of space between musical events

This song isn't written for our ensemble. Not only this but there are a lot of unusual sounds being used.

- Can you name some of the instruments that are playing? (CLUE: one of them does belong in our ensemble too!)