

Question 4 (10 marks)

You have 20 minutes to answer Question 4.

The last twenty-five years have been marked by composers' exploration of tone colour and performing techniques.

Discuss this statement in relation to at least TWO works you have studied from the Mandatory Topic, *Music of the Last 25 Years (Australian focus)*. At least ONE work must be Australian.

Works : 1. Kakadu by Peter Sculthorpe (1988)
2. Fabian Theory by Nigel Westlake

Kakadu - Tone Colour - performing media

- The orchestra was unique in its construction
 - no piccolo
 - large brass section (4 horns, 4 trumpets, 3 trombones)
 - Trumpets in C - a slightly harsher tone colour than the usual Trumpets in B^b
 - Use of the contrabassoon.
 - Percussion - extremely specific.
 - cymbals - four different types of cymbals specified (Tam-tam, Beijing gong, suspended and crash).
 - Drums - specific drums also (bass drum, tom-toms, bongos, and congas) + timpani.
- Also a large string section.
- The use of this large an orchestra gives rise to unique exploration into tone colour.

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Question 4 (continued)

- The extremes of registers of certain instruments are widely used (eg. horn - in the horn theme, the higher registers are utilised often, producing a very powerful, brassy sound).

Performing Techniques

- col legno was used occasionally in the cellos, producing a harsh, sharp, wooden sound.

- Bird song - This required the strings to play randomly in their highest registers. A very bird-like sound.

- Staccato, attacking (eg. very beginning) contrasts with legato sections such as the cor anglais theme.

Also random notes on other notes such as the oboe.

Fabian Theory

Tone Colour

The performing media (marimba, 3 tom-toms + digital delay pedal) have mixed influences:

- African - marimba, drums - wooden, natural.
- Technology - digital delay pedal - echoing of natural sound (slight unnatural tinge).

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Question 4 (continued)

This shows Westlake's exploration of the music of other cultures and the technology of the modern society and the mixing of these.

Techniques

- A great deal of multi-stick work is required of the performer, sometimes playing on both marimba and tom-toms, and the coordination with the pedal (when the use of the pedal changes - eg. at bar 51).

- The use of the digital delay pedal to augment the volume of sound and to produce more layers of sound. (more echoes).

End of paper