



Unit 3: Appraising – *Palladio*: ‘Allegretto’ – Movement 1 by Sir Karl Jenkins (Set Work List A)

Context

- Sir Karl Jenkins was born in 1944 in Penclawdd, Swansea, Wales.
- He is a renowned performer and composer, primarily in classical music.
- He has interests in jazz and rock styles and experience with ensembles.
- Jenkins formed the group Nucleus, which won an award at the Swiss Festival in 1970.
- He regularly performed at the renowned Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club.
- In 1972, he joined the Canterbury jazz fusion rock band Soft Machine.
- Known as a ‘musical tourist’, Jenkins was influenced by a diverse range of genres and world cultures.
- He first created themes later used in ‘Allegretto’, which featured in a De Beers diamond advertisement in 1993.
- *Palladio* was completed in 1995 and consists of three movements.
- The piece was written in honour of the Italian architect Palladio.
- It adopts a Baroque style, structured as a concerto grosso.
- Numerous arrangements of *Palladio* have been transcribed for piano, choir, and other ensembles.
- *Palladio* was released as a single in 2009, following a successful performance by the Escala String Quartet on *Britain’s Got Talent*. It spent one week in the top 40 singles chart.

Structure

The overall structure could be analysed in a number of ways, but the structural analysis below clearly shows the individual sections which will be referred to in the examination.

Section	Bar numbers	Duration (bars)
Introduction	1-2	2
Section A	3-10	8
Section B	11-18	8
Section A	19-26	8
Section C	27-51	25
Section A	52-59	8
Section B	60-67	8
Section A	68-75	8
Coda	76-82	7

The group of soloists are referred to as the concertino and the full string orchestra is known as the ripieno or tutti.

Musical Elements 1

- **TYPE OF WORK:** Concerto Grosso featuring Baroque era characteristics
- **TEMPO:** Allegretto (90 crotchet beats per minute)
- **METRE:** 4 crotchet beats per bar (simple quadruple/common time/constant)
- **DYNAMICS:** Range from *p* to *ffff* featuring several crescendo dynamics
- **PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES/ARTICULATION:** Use of arco (bowed), staccato (detached), legato, slurred patterns, tremolo, divisi (split parts), double stopping, triple stopping, quadruple stopping, accented notes

Musical Elements 2

- **MELODY:** Conjunct/disjunct, motif, repetition, arpeggios, ascending/descending movement, pedal notes, ornaments, chromaticism, sequences, imitation, contrast
- **HARMONY:** Diatonic in key of D minor but the solo section is in the tonic major key (D major) – use of diminished 7th, dominant 7th and augmented chords and all inversions highlighted, pedal note and circle of fifths
- **TEXTURE:** Mainly homophonic with melody and accompaniment in solo section and polyphonic texture in the development section featuring imitation
- **RHYTHM:** Straight, dotted, syncopated and triplet figures (+quavers/semiquavers)

Instrumentation

String Orchestra

- First Violins
- Second Violins
- Violas
- Cellos
- Double Basses
- Solo First Violin
- Solo Second Violin