

Danse Bacchanale

Luke Arno
West Pine Elementary School
Moore County Schools
jarno@ncmcs.org

About Camille Saint-Saëns

- Had perfect pitch, could pick out tunes on a piano at 3 years old.
- Loved to travel, especially to north Africa.
- In 1908, Saint-Saëns became the first famous composer to write music for a film, “The Assassination of the Duke of Guise.’





Lesson 1: Moving with the Form

About *Samson et Delilah*

There once was a man named Samson, who was incredibly strong. He was a leader of the Israelites, and used his strength to protect them against their enemies, the Philistines. He was so strong that once he defeated 1,000 Philistines on his own. Samson falls in love with a beautiful woman named Delilah. She is secretly working with the Philistines to get Samson to reveal the source of his strength. She tricks him into telling her that his hair is the secret to his strength. She cuts Samson's hair, ties him up and brings him to the Philistine priests and their temple. When Samson is brought to their temple, Samson prays for god to restore his strength and pushes down the pillars of the temple, crushing the priests and himself.

Let's Talk about Form

- What is the form of *Danse Bacchanale*?
 - Modified Sonata Form
 - A B ~a ~b Dev. A B
 - Markers:
 - A section played by strings in minor
 - B section melody in Phrygian dominant played by oboe/English horn, played by French horn
 - Development played by strings in major

Let's Move

The slides at <https://bit.ly/dansbac> can be used as a guide for demonstration.



Phrygian Improvisation



What makes the B section of this piece sound unique?

Phrygian Mode

- Starts on the 3rd note of a Major Scale
 - For C Major starts on E

- B section of *Danse Bacchanale* is in Phrygian Dominant
 - Phrygian Mode with raised third
 - E F G# A B

Let's Try out Phrygian Mode! Sing Along

Major:

Musical score for the song "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" in 2/4 time. The score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff, with a bass clef staff below it. The lyrics are: "Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star, How I won - der what you are!". The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef staff contains a whole rest in each measure.

Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star, How I won - der what you are!

Let's Try out Phrygian Mode! Sing Along

Phrygian:

Musical score for the song "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" in Phrygian mode. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the bass line. The melody is written in Phrygian mode, characterized by a lowered second scale degree (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star, How I won - der what you are!". The bass line consists of whole rests in each measure.

Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star, How I won - der what you are!

Let's Try out Phrygian Mode! Sing Along

Phrygian Dominant:

Musical score for the song "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" in Phrygian Dominant mode. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The melody is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and features a Phrygian Dominant scale (B-flat, C, D, E-flat, F, G). The lyrics are: "Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star, How I won - der what you are!". The bass staff contains a simple accompaniment of whole notes on the second line of the staff (F2).

Twin - kle twin - kle lit - tle star, How I won - der what you are!



Let's Play in Phrygian Mode!

Start with body percussion!



Wing

Chick - en

Wing

Chick - en

Play it on instruments

Bass Xylophone/Metallophone



Hand Drums



Maracas (optional)



Improvise a melody

On Alto and Soprano Xylophones, improvise an 8 beat melody:

- Guidelines
 - Use Bars E, F, G, A, & B
 - The melody lasts 8 beats.
 - The rhythm should be just quarter and eighth notes.
 - The melody should begin and end on E.