

Introduction – understanding the inspiration behind the music

Watch the film and answer the following questions:

1. Margaret Bonds wrote this music about a group of people who stood up to rules that were:
 - a. Unfair, out-of-date, and unlawful ☐
 - b. Unjust, prejudiced, and needed to be changed ☐
 - c. Unbiased, predetermined, and needing to be changed ☐
2. In what decade did the civil rights movement begin? **1930s** **1950s** **1970s**
3. Which of these are examples of segregation mentioned in the film?
 - a. Black and White people were not allowed to eat together in a restaurant ☐
 - b. Black and White people were not allowed to sit together at the cinema ☐
 - c. Black people were not allowed to travel by bus ☐
4. In which city did the protest begin?
 - a. Montgomery, Alabama ☐
 - b. Alabama, New York ☐
 - c. Montgomery, Oklahoma ☐
5. Whose brave actions inspired the protest?
 - a. Rosie Parker ☐
 - b. Rosa Parks ☐
 - c. Molly Parks ☐

Ideas space:

- Are there any rules you think are wrong?

Think about rules at school, at home, and even rules that apply to entire countries.

- What do you think are the biggest problems in the world right now?

March – understanding the music

Watch the performance of March and answer the following questions. If you need help with the musical vocabulary, check the glossary at the end of the workbook.

- The timpani and double basses begin the protest march, as if from a distance.
 - Is the music they play **staccato** or **legato**? _____
 - Is the music they play **piano** or **forte**? _____
 - Is the tempo **Andante** or **Allegro**? _____
- Using this information, write a sentence to explain the answer to this question:
How does Margaret Bonds create the sound of distant marching feet at the beginning?

- Which instrument plays the **melody** for the first time? _____
- Which instrument family is this instrument from?

Strings

Woodwind

Brass

Percussion

- Here is a score of the beginning of the melody. Can you be a musical detective, and match the rhythm names in the word bank below to the numbers on the score?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

quavers
semiquavers
dotted rhythm
syncopation
upbeat (anacrusis)

Clue: quavers are usually grouped in twos. Semiquavers are usually grouped in fours. A dotted rhythm will have a dot after the first note. Syncopation is a short-long-short patter. An upbeat (anacrusis) will be at the beginning of a musical phrase.

Dawn – understanding the music

Watch the performance of Dawn and answer the following questions. If you need help with the musical vocabulary, check the glossary at the end of the workbook.

1. Tick whether the musical feature is the same as or different to the March:

Musical feature	Same	Different
Tempo		
Metre (time signature)		
Tonality (key)		

2. Listen carefully throughout the performance of Dawn, and tick whether each of the following musical features stays the same throughout or changes during the performance:

Musical feature	Description	Stays the same	Changes
Tempo	<i>the speed of the music (pulse)</i>		
Texture	<i>how many people are playing at once & what parts / roles they play</i>		
Metre	<i>how many beats per bar: 3 or 4?</i>		
Dynamics	<i>the volume of the music - loud or quiet?</i>		
Articulation	<i>how notes are played - detached (staccato) or connected (legato)?</i>		
Tonality	<i>the key: major or minor?</i>		

3. Here is a guide to how the pitches of the melody are written down for performers:



- a. Using the notation guide above, can you label the pitches of each melodic idea?

idea 1

idea 2

pitch:

- b. Which idea has the highest pitch? idea 1 idea 2
- c. Which idea has the lowest pitch? idea 1 idea 2
- d. Which idea has the biggest leaps between notes? idea 1 idea 2

Montgomery Variations – creative responses

On plain or lined paper, try one or more of the following creative tasks:






1. Write a short script for an imaginary radio interview with Rosa Parks. What would you like to ask her? What might she say?
2. Turn Rosa's story into a short comic book strip, with images to suit these captions:
 - a. Rosa would not give up her seat on the bus
 - b. Members of the black community boycotted the bus in protest and walked to work
 - c. Society changed, and people of different races were allowed to sit together
3. Write a poem or rap about Rosa's story, that could be read or performed at the start of a performance of Montgomery Variations.
4. Imagine you have been asked to compose a piece of music for a climate change conference called "Scorched Earth". Plan your composition by selecting musical features. Use the features and descriptions from question 2 on the previous page to help you plan. You might also want to plan which instruments would play your melody, and what feature rhythms you would choose.

Montgomery Variations – word search

S	N	U	Y	R	E	M	O	G	T	N	O	M	I
M	R	V	I	O	L	I	N	O	L	L	E	C	E
L	O	R	R	T	S	T	S	I	V	I	O	L	A
C	I	A	S	T	A	C	C	A	T	O	O	S	R
S	Y	N	C	O	P	A	T	I	O	N	B	C	S
N	E	M	I	P	O	T	R	N	P	I	T	I	S
O	N	M	H	N	A	T	Y	O	O	V	D	M	R
I	W	A	E	O	P	R	E	U	S	M	O	A	B
T	A	R	R	P	S	A	K	M	A	A	T	N	A
A	D	C	H	A	R	P	A	S	P	N	T	Y	S
I	I	H	S	A	L	E	G	A	T	O	E	D	S
R	M	O	P	S	N	W	V	T	E	S	D	M	O
A	A	N	I	T	R	U	M	P	E	T	A	M	O
V	S	S	R	E	V	A	U	Q	I	M	E	S	N

ROSA
PARKS
MONTGOMERY
VARIATIONS
MARCH
DAWN
TEMPO
DYNAMICS
STACCATO
LEGATO
DOTTED
SYNCOPIATION
SEMIQUAVERS
There are also six hidden instruments!

Montgomery Variations – glossary of words and symbols

Staccato – detached, short sounds	Quavers	
Legato – smooth, connected sounds	Semiquavers	
Piano – played quietly	Dotted Rhythm	
Forte – played loudly	Syncopation	
Andante – at a moderately slow speed (walking speed)	Upbeat (anacrusis)	
Allegro – at a fast and energetic speed		
Melody – the tune of a piece of music		