

Humanities W1123 · Masterpieces of Western Music · Prof. Michael Thaddeus

Questionnaire for March 31

Name: _____

How does the Prelude differ, musically and dramatically, from other opera overtures we have heard so far — the Toccata from *Orfeo*, the Overture to *Don Giovanni*, the Overture and Entr'actes from *Carmen*?

Does the excerpt from Scene 1 sound more like recitative or aria? _____

In this scene, what orchestral instruments do you *not* hear? _____

How could this be significant? _____

In the excerpt from Scene 2, what role, musical and dramatic, is played by the bass instruments?

Does the first excerpt from Scene 3 sound more like recitative or aria? _____

How or why? _____

At what time do you hear a sort of contrasting “B-section”? _____

Instead of returning to the A-section, what does the music do next?

Turning to the second excerpt from Scene 3, in what ways (including the obvious ones) is this scene unprecedented among all the operatic selections we have heard so far?
