

# Pines of Rome

It's All Connected!

# Pines of Rome

- Ottorino Respighi
  - Worked with many great composers who were really into symphonic poems. Wanted to use a piece of music to portray events or locations
    - Inspired him to write pieces to depict the beauty of nature
      - Fountains of Rome, Pines of Rome, and Roman Festivals
- Pines of Rome
  - Depicts the different kinds of pines in four different locations at different times of the night
  - Pines of the Villa Borghese (day), Pines near a catacomb (evening), Pines of the Janiculum (night), and Pines of Appian Way (dawn).

“He desired above all to compose music that would speak to his compatriots about all aspects of their beloved country in a musical language that was beautiful and easy for ordinary people to accept and enjoy.”

# Form is Confusing

- Form is taught theory first
  - What is more important the theory or the music?
- Often the piece strays from the form
  - How can you accurately decide the form if the piece doesn't follow it?
  - What is the point of classifying a piece if it doesn't fit?
- We took a different approach
  - Bigger picture
  - Widely universal human knowledge
- What is the Form of Pines of Rome?



# Pines of the Villa Borghese



- Children playing around the pines (similar to our Ring around the Rosy)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBcNFcMZmEg>
    - (0:55-1:30)
- Pretend they are soldiers marching and fighting
  - (2:03-end)
    - Trumpet, marching beat, key change, rapid runs, loud sirens

# Pines Near a Catacomb



- Introduction

- 3:00

- Hymn - offstage trumpet

- 5:05

- Chanting

- 6:18

XIV. s.

v

S An- ctus, \* San-ctus, San- ctus Dómi-nus

De- us Sá- ba- oth. Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter- ra gló- ri- a tu- a. Ho-sán-na in excél- sis. Be- ne-díctus qui ve- nit in nó- mi- ne Dó- mi- ni. Ho- sánna in ex- cé- sis.



# The Pines of the Janiculum

- Full moon shines on trees growing on hill of temple Janus
- Nightingale
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBcNFcMZmEg> (15:25)



# The Pines of the Janiculum

- Journey through the pines
  - Extended melody through multiple instruments depicting different trees
  - Sense of peace as they transition out of a more populated area
  - Layering of the instruments as it gets thicker
- Reaching the top
  - Admiring the temple in awe
  - Seeing the city so quiet from the hill
  - A bird flies by amidst the peace

# Pines of Appian Way

- Military Road leading into Rome
- 32 Foot Organ Pedals represent marching and ground rumbling
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBcNFcMZmEg>



# Pines of Appian Way

- Rhythm is constant
  - Bass instruments create a pulse that builds in intensity while moving along the path
- The slowly emerging sunrise
  - Beginning of the road is mysterious and uncertain
  - The music becomes more majestic as the dawn breaks and the sun shines on the pines
    - Changes in instrumentation, dynamics, and harmony
    - Same pulse as before to keep the journey moving along



# Conclusion

- Started from an easily understood concept
  - Nature am I right
- Listened to the music and describe what YOU hear
  - We explained how we found nature in this piece
- Connect it to a more complex idea such as form
  - The four movements each help depict nature in different ways as we would see a melody used in different ways in a theme and variation
- Form is not a box to fit music in. It is a tool to help gain understanding.