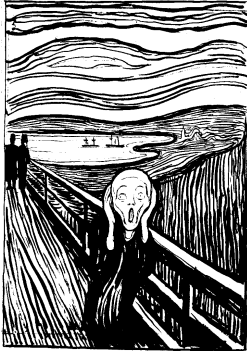


Peripetie comes from the Greek word meaning 'sudden changes'.

Expressionist features (general)



- Atonal
- Dissonances
- Extreme use of pitch range
- Explores instrumental colour
- Extremes of dynamics
- Very large orchestra with full percussion section
- Complex and irregular rhythms and no sense of metre (time signature)
- No recognisable themes
- Breaks up the melody and passes around different parts (*Klangfarbenmelodie*)
- Frequent use of techniques that alter the timbre of the instrument (pizzicato, mute, tremolo)

Musical Features in Peripetie

Structure

- Rondo form (ABACA)
- Same melodic ideas (section A) returns twice
- Can be described as **free rondo** – ABA'CA''
- A' and A'' are variations on section A

Melody

- Fragmented melody, which is passed from one instrument to another ('klangfarbenmelodie' *tone-colour melody*)
- Angular and disjunct melody, but also often uses repeated notes or short motifs
- Atonal melody
- Very wide pitch range
- Motifs arranged in different inversions – retrograde, inverted and transposed
-

Tonality and Harmony

- **Atonal** (not in any key, uses all 12 notes of the chromatic scale)
- Uses **hexachords** (6 note chords)
- Frequent use of dissonances (chords that 'clash' or are 'dissonant')

Rhythm, Tempo and Metre

- Tempos change in each section.
- Lots of different note lengths (from demisemiquavers to semibreves).
- Complex and irregular rhythms
- No sense of metre

Dynamics

- Extreme dynamics range from *pp* to *ff* (very quiet to very loud)
- Extreme crescendos are a feature of the music

Instrumentation and Timbre

- Very large orchestra with full percussion section and quadruple woodwind section (3 flutes and a piccolo, 3 oboes and cor anglais, 3 clarinets and a bass clarinet, 3 bassoons and a contra bassoon).
- Big brass section (6 horns, 3 trumpets, 4 trombones and a tuba)
- Unusual timbres created e.g. using a violin bow on a cymbal, extreme range of instruments are used
- Rapid changes of timbre and orchestral colour

Texture

- Complex texture varies from polyphonic to homophonic, ranges from solo flute to the whole orchestra playing

Why is it called 'Peripetie' (*sudden changes*):

- Dynamics – sudden and extreme changes and also includes *sforzando* (marked *sfz*) = sudden accent
- Rapid changes of timbre and orchestral colour
- Texture – ranges from solo flute to the whole orchestra playing.