Beckfoot

Music	Topic: Ralph Vaughan Williams – On Wenlock Edge – Mvmnt 1, 3 and 5 – Context, structure, sonority and melody.	Year Group: 12/13

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1. Context and structure

1	**Ralph Vaughan-Williams**	English composer of symphonies, operas, vocal music and a variety of other forms. His most famous pieces include The Lark Ascending for solo violin and orchestra, one of the most popular of all classical compositions.
2	**Movement one**	Verse structure - The structure is A A B B A/B, where the last verse combines both A and B elements.
3	**Movement three**	The structure of the song is modified strophic with three pairs of verses: 1. AB 2. AB 3. A1B1
4	**Movement five**	The seven verse structure is: Introduction–A–A–B–B1–C–D–A1-postlude.

2. Melody

1	**Arpeggio**	Broken chord shape with added octave.
2	**Chromatic**	Movement by semitones. Bar 13 mvmnt 1.
3	**Ostinato**	A rhythmic, melodic or harmonic pattern repeated many times in succession.
4	**Pentatonic**	A scale of five pitches to the octave – used in mvmnt 1.
5	**Word Painting**	When the music reflects the meaning of the words. E.g. Bells in 'Bredon Hill'.

3. Sonority – How the instruments are used

1	**Resources**	Written for piano quintet (Piano plus string quartet) plus Tenor Voices.
2	**Pizzicato**	Plucking strings, Used in magical cue change.
3	**Tre corda**	3 strings'. Release the soft pedal.
4	**Con sordino**	Play with a mute.
5	**Recitative**	A manner of singing that resembles ordinary speech. Often used to flow into song. Seen in Is my team ploughing?'.
6	**Double/ Triple stopping**	Playing two/three notes at the same time on a string instrument.
7	**Sul Ponticello**	Keep the bow near the bridge to bring out higher harmonics in string instrument.
8	**Tremolo**	The continuous rapid repetition of a pitch or alternating pitches.
9	**Harmonics**	A very high note on a string instrument produced by placing a finger on a string very lightly before plucking or bowing.
10	**Trill**	A quavering sound used as a form of ornamentation.
11	**Una Corda**	Soft pedal. Seen in 'Is my team ploughing?'.

4. Key vocabulary

1	**Early twentieth century**	Era after the Romantic period – many divergent styles. Vaughan Williams was in group of composers that rebelled against late romantic German tradition.
2	**English Folk**	Music originally from England.. Typically of unknown ownership and passed down through oral tradition.
3	**Choral**	Music composed for a choir.
4	**Impressionism**	A movement that originated in France in the 1860s. It is characterised by its 'abstract' depiction of an idea.
5	**Song cycle**	A series of songs connected by a theme and played in a sequence as a unit to tell a story.
6	**Tudor**	Relating to the English royal dynasty between 1485 and 1603.
7	**Syllabic**	One note per syllable.
8	**Melismatic**	More than one note per syllable.

Other points of interest: Difference to the German Romantic tradition; Features of English Folk Music and how seen in RVWs music; 20th Century traits seen in the piece.

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5. Texture		
1	**Homophonic**	Melody and accompaniment. Used in all three movements.
2	**Homorhythmic**	A type of homophonic texture where all parts have the same rhythm. E.g. opening of 'Is my team ploughing?'.
3	**Unison**	More than one part playing the same melody at the same pitch. E.g. 'On Wenlock Edge'.
4	**Parallel Chords**	Chords that move with the same distance between each note. E.g. 'On Wenlock edge'.

6. Tempo, metre and rhythm		
1	**Anacrusis**	When the music begins with unstressed notes before the 1st bar line. E.g. Bredon Hill
2	**Cross rhythm**	The effect produced when 2 conflicting rhythms are heard together. B.3. 'Wenlock Edge'
3	**Hemidemisemiquaver**	A very short rhythm. Lasts for a 16th of a beat. B.31 On Wenlock Edge
4	**Sextuplet**	6 notes in the time of 4. E.g. Start of Wenlcok Edge
5	**Speech rhythms**	Rhythms relating to the patterns of speech. E.g. Wenlock edge
	Triplet	3 notes in the time of 2. E.g. Bredon Hill

7. Harmony and Tonality		
1	**Consonance**	Sounds that are pleasant when played together. Seen in all pieces.
2	**Dissonance**	Sounds that are not pleasant when played together. Examples seen in 'On Wenlock edge'.
3	**Extended chords**	A chord with an added note such as a 9th or 11th. B.52 Bredon Hill.
4	**False Relation**	A dissonance that occurs when a note sounds at the same time or immediately after a chromatically altered version of the note before. B.3. On Wenlock edge.
5	**First Inversion**	A chord with the 3rd as the bass. The chord has been inverted once. E.g. Bar 2 On Wenlock edge
6	**Modality**	A type of scale with 7 notes that is neither major or minor. Commonly used in folk music and jazz.
7	**Parallel chords**	A succession of chords whose notes all move in the same direction.
8	**Whole tone**	A scale consisting entirely of intervals of a tone, with no semitones. E.g. Bar 1 On Wenlock edge

8. Key vocabulary		
1	**Animando**	Performance direction- Becoming animated.
2	**Free tempo**	No established tempo
3	**Iambic**	Used in poetry, words consisting of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.
4	**Dorian**	A mode beginning on D. consisting of all white notes. E.g. Is my team ploughing?
5	**Mixolydian**	A mode beginning on G, consisting of all white notes. E.g. Bredon Hill
6	**Song Cycle**	A set of pieces that tell a story.

Wider listening: Sullivan – The Window; Tippett – Concerto for Double String Orchestra; Elgar – Sea Pictures; Debussy – Prelude a l'apres midi d'un Faune