

Bonus Listening Experience, Women, Music, Culture: An Introduction, 3rd Edition

Mirage (1991)

Shulamit Ran

Spotify Playlist for Chapter 13

Listening Focus

Listen for the interplay of five performers: Bb clarinet, violin, cello and piano, with one additional performer who covers piccolo/flute/amplified alto flute. The melody is reminiscent of Middle-Eastern modal music, but with chromatic saturation. Also note the extremely virtuosic passages required of the performers.

Form at a Glance

Asymmetrical arch form, loosely structured, with texturally dense central section

Timed Listening Guide

0:00 thin texture begins the arch with “A” material performed by solo amplified alto flute; soloist moves freely against static accompaniment in clarinet, violin and cello

0:59 clarinet moves in counterpoint with flute; violin and cello sustain accompaniment

2:08 piano enters, then other voices join as texture thickens and rhythm intensifies; listen for special effects created by flutter tonguing on winds, string glissandi, and piano pedaling; peak of the arch reached in this extended section

5:52 march-like piano accompanies various combinations of unison pairs and heterophonic passages

7:41 unison passage involving all voices marks move toward thinner texture

8:12 slower tempo, thinner texture

9:32 return of “A” material featuring solo flute; thinning to nothing