

WEST SIDE STORY (BERNSTEIN) written _____ genre _____

Instrumentation: what is the main cast and what is the size of the supporting orchestra?

List instruments in the orchestra which are associated with jazz and Latin American dance.

Text: librettist _____ What notable musicals has he composed?

Historical context: why were there many Puerto Ricans in New York? Where did they mostly live? What social problems existed in Manhattan at the time?

Plot: how does West Side Story compare to Romeo and Juliet? Identify parallels between characters such as Tony, Maria, the Jets, Sharks, and the events that happen throughout the musical.

Give a brief overview of the story in each of the two acts.

Act I, 4. "Dance At the Gym": what are the two Latin American dances that are named in this scene? What are their characteristic rhythms?

dance form _____ meter _____ characteristic rhythm:

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What country did they originate from? What role did Puerto Ricans play in bringing these dances to the United States?

Act I, 6. "America": key _____ meter _____ form _____

What is the technical term for the rhythmic effect used in this number? Give an example of the effect.

Which lyrics are the "verse"? Which lyrics are the "chorus"?

Structure: which song includes a notable tritone in the melody?

Extra-musical connections: how does Leonard Bernstein's work bridge the divide between classical music (high art) and popular music (low art)?

What adaptations have been produced? Why do some modern productions substitute Spanish lyrics?