



Listening Guide

Still: *Afro-American Symphony, Second Movement (Sorrow)*

DATE OF WORK: 1930

BASIS: Dialect poems by Paul Laurence Dunbar

KEY: F major/minor

OVERALL STRUCTURE: 4 movements (all in modified sonata-allegro form)

- 1. Moderato assai (*Longing*)
- 2. Adagio (*Sorrow*)
- 3. Animato (*Humor*)
- 4. Lento, con risoluzione (*Aspiration*)

DIALECT POEM “It’s moughty tiahsome layin’ ’roun’
FOR ADAGIO: Dis sorrer-laden earfly groun’,
An’ oftentimes I thinks, thinks I
“Twould be a sweet t’ing des to die
A’ go ‘long home.”

Introduction; violins accompanied by strings and timpani.

Adagio

Theme 1—repeated by violas, with countermelody in woodwinds and muted trumpets.

Theme 2—derived from first movement; begun in flute, then violin:

Restated by solo clarinet.

Theme 1—altered rhythmically, heard by violin, and later in bass clarinet:

Continuous development of theme, which is passed to various instruments.

Theme 1—returns in flute and bassoon, accompanied by harp and low strings; slows to lead into coda.

Coda—brings back introduction with first violin; accompanied by strings.

Closing chord dies out (as softly as possible).