

## **Adagio and Allegro in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake**

### **Lesson 2: Tempo, Mood, and Feeling**

Lessons and activities by Stani Dimitrova, *New York Philharmonic Teaching Artist*

#### **For this lesson you'll need:**

- Headphones or a speaker
- Something to write on and something to write with

#### **Introduction**

[Watch a video](#) introduction to this lesson.

#### **Activity 1: Review**

In Lesson 1 we learned some new music words. Let's see if you remember what they mean. Turn to someone next to you and try to explain, in your own words, what you remember about each of them.

If you'd like, you can also write your definitions to the right of each word, below:



**Music Beat:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tempo:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adagio:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Moderato:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Allegro:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 2: Tempo and feeling

The words *Adagio* and *Allegro* are tempo markings that communicate to musicians the speed at which the music should be played; they can also suggest the character, mood, or personality of the music they are playing.

In Italian the word *Adagio* actually means “at leisure” or “at peace,” and *Allegro* means “cheerful,” but when composers use these markings they can use them to express many other moods. Let’s take a second to think of some moods that feel slow, or *Adagio*, and make us move slowly?



How about “calm” or “sleepy”? Can you think of a few more?

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And what are some moods you can think of that feel *Allegro*, or fast, and make us move fast? A word I can think of right now is “excited.” What might be some other moods that feel fast?

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## Activity 3: Connecting tempo and mood

Now let’s put together everything we’ve learned and pick which of the following moods feel *Adagio*, and which feel *Allegro*.

Use a pencil to connect each word to either *Adagio* or *Allegro*. Turn to the person next to you and tell them about the choices you made. There’s no right or wrong way to do this, so have fun!

**Exhausted**

**Happy**

**Bored**

**Excited**

**Sleepy**

**Frightened**

**Tired**

**Nervous**

**Sad**

**Peaceful**

**Rushing**

**Calm**

**Busy**



***We hope you've enjoyed learning about Adagio and Allegro!***

**Share with us! We'd love to see how you're learning at home.**

**Scan or take a picture 📷 of your work and send it to:**

**[education@nyphil.org](mailto:education@nyphil.org).**