


Listening Guide:
‘Overture’ from *The Pirates of Penzance*
 By Arthur Sullivan

Sections	Bars	Features
Compressed Sonata Form Lively Opening		Opening key: C major In 4/4. Crochet = 120. <i>Allegro Maestoso</i> - fast, with a majestic or stately character
1st subject	1-8	Lyrics: “With cat-like tread” melody Melody- Vln. 1, Clt. 1 Harmony- Vln. 2, Clt. 2, Horn. 1 Bass (C ostinato) - Bassoon, Horn 2, Viola, Cello, DB Unison duration, articulations and dynamic (<i>p</i>) Character introduction: the pirates!
	8-15	“Ta-ran, ta-ra!” Call and response between woodwind & strings - foreshadowing of polychoral antiphony Addition of flute melody & piccolo harmony (tone colour)
	16	Harmonically moves from Em to G for perfect cadence in 17 Dynamic <i>f</i> for one bar Character introduction: the police (foil to pirates)
A	17-24	“Come friends, who plow the sea” melody Return to <i>p</i> (dynamic contrast) Melody in woodwind & horns Strings ostinato
“Bridge”	21-24	Addition of clarinet harmonies to woodwind
	25-32	Melody repeats Addition of violin and flute to melody Addition of brass to ostinato Percussion joins!
B 2nd subject	33-45	Key: G major (dominant) Moves to D7 (dom of G) - Bbm2 (rel. minor of G) - D7 Trumpet solo Character introduction: military men (Maj-Gen Stanley) Clarinet & bassoon harmonies String ostinato cont. (on G)
	40-48	Addition of trumpet 2 and trombones to woodwind harmonies Addition of horns to strings ostinato Addition of violin to melody (Texture)
	45-48	Return to key of C major (tonic)
	48-55	Development of “ta-ran, ta-ra!” call and response Dynamics moved into <i>pp</i>
	52-53	Moves into C minor
	55	G (dominant chromatic) into C major for perfect cadence
C	56-63	Key: C major (tonic) Return to “With cat-like tread” melody Flute, Oboe, Clarinet on melody Clarinet 2, Bassoon and Horns on harmonies

	64-71	Perc, Trumpet & Strings on beat 3 C chords Dynamics in <i>ff</i> - massive dynamic change! Return to "Come friends who plow the sea" melody Flutes, Oboe and Violins on melody Clarinets, Violin 2 and Cello on G triplet ostinato Bassoon, Brass, Percussion, Viola and DB on chord ostinato on beat Dynamics at <i>p</i>
D	72-75	Transition to middle section Key transition from C to Ab major Oboe cadenza - removal of time signature means smooth transition between 4/4 and 3/4 Dynamic remains at <i>p</i>
Slow Middle "Development"		4 flats - Ab major (diminished 6th of tonic) In 3/4. Crochet = 66 (almost half speed) <i>Andante</i> - at a walking pace Dynamic remains at <i>p</i> Character introduction of the women (foil to previous intros)
E	76-88	"Oh, leave me not to pine" melody Oboe solo cont. Violins, Viola, Cello: <i>con sord</i> (with mute) & <i>arco</i> (bowed) Violin- melody, rest- harmonies DB: <i>pizz</i> (plucked)
	88-96	Strings move to quaver chords Flute addition octave above melody
	94	Fermata- Ab maj dim.
	95	Fermata- Eb maj
	96-99	Return to Ab major
	99-102	Move into G major for perfect cadence into section F
"Retransition" on dominant	102	Fermata - G major
Fast Ending "Recapitulation"		Return to C (tonic key) New melodic ideas rather than return to 1st and 2nd subjects In cut-common (2/2). Minim = 100 <i>Allegro Vivace</i> - fast and lively Melodic ideas provide a brief summary of the coming plot
F	103-120	"Pray observe the magnanimity" melody Flutes and clarinets on melody and harmonies Strings on crochet ostinato <i>Senza sord</i> (without mute)
G	120-144	Melody continues Addition of violins and remaining woodwinds to melody/harmony Addition of brass to crochet ostinato Addition of percussion chords (Texture) Dynamics change to <i>ff</i>
	129-144	Moves to G major

H	145-156	<p>Dynamics return to <i>p</i> Cello and DB on walking bassline</p> <p>“Climbing over rocky mountains” melody Violin, Oboe on melody</p>  <p>Violin 2 & Viola on 2 beat rhythm chords- Bassoon, Horns, DB on beat 1 chords Flute joins melody Clarinets join harmonies (plus horns on semibreves)</p>
	156-168	
J	169-184	“When you left our pirate fold” melody
	169-172	Flute & violin 1 on melody (flute 2 harmonies) Low strings and triangle on beat 1 + <i>pizz</i> (4 bars) Middle strings on 2,3,4 G chords
	172-175	Lower strings on beat Middle strings offbeat
	176-184	(8 bar rhythmic string pattern repeats until 185) Additional woodwind on harmonies
K	185-192	Transition back to C major (tonic) Woodwind semibreves & string stepping ostinato (subdivided) - Crescendo to <i>f</i> (immediate drop back to <i>p</i>)
	193-202	Transition continues Instrumental layering (texture and tone colour) Crescendoing to <i>ff</i> to change to C-
	203-210	C major- return to tonic “Please observe the magnanimity” melody return Flutes, clarinets and violins on melodies/harmonies Chords in brass and lower strings (crochets)
L	211-225	Dynamics drop to <i>p</i> Flute & piccolo on melody Woodwind & strings on crochet chords (<i>pizz</i>)
	226	Crescendo to <i>ff</i> into section M
M	227-242	“Climbing over rocky mountains” melody return Woodwind, horns and violins melody Bassoon, remaining brass, percussion and lower strings (<i>arco</i>) on crochet chordal accompaniment
	241-242	Perfect cadence into N
N	243-250	<p>“How beautifully blue the sky” melody Violin 1 on melody Strings and Horns on crochet chords Clarinets - harmonic emphasis</p>

O	251-257	Addition of flutes on “When you left our pirate fold” melody Remainder continues
	258-276	<i>Piu Animato</i> - increased liveliness Minum = 112 Harmonic bridge back to 1st subject
	258-263	C semibreves in woodwind and horns String quavers around C Woodwind and brass moving crochets around F (sub-dominant) Crescendo to <i>ff</i> for block chords
	262 263 264-276	Woodwind semibreve C major block chord Moves to Db minor > G (dom) > C major > A minor > C
P Coda	277-290	1st subject - “Come friends who plow the sea” melody returns First C major climax before conclusion Dynamics at <i>ff</i> Woodwind, brass and violins melody Rest on crochet chords (C and G)
Q	291-305	Conclusion Opens in Fmajor6 (sub-dominant)
	299-303	Crochets moves back and forth between C and G chords
	303-305	Finals two bars in C major Crochet block chords over timpani roll <i>Rit</i> (fast slow down) into C fermata