

308. West Side Story-Medley

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

In 1957, the American composer LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918-1990) wrote the West Side Story and in the same year the first performance took place in New York - critics certify that the show had brought the American musical to full maturity. The pianist RICHARD CLAYDERMAN has made it a very sentimental medley of the most beautiful songs - we play two of them here: "Maria" and "Tonight".

West Side Story. On the west side of New York there are two rival gangs facing each other. The JETS, Americans led by Riff, and the SHARKS, Puerto Ricans led by Bernardo. There are street fights between JETS and SHARKS again and again, because neither gang wants to lose their territory. Riff persuades Tony to come to the ball in the gym. Her social worker Gladhand asks the young people to take part in games to get to know each other. When everyone else is dancing, Tony sees only Maria, who is all alone. The two fall in love immediately.

When Maria and Tony are about to kiss, Bernardo, Maria's brother, intervenes. He says that Tony is one of those with whom they want nothing to do. But Maria cannot understand that. Chino, whom Bernardo has already promised Maria to be his wife, is also at the ball and must bring Maria home immediately. That evening Tony sings about his mistress on a fire escape in front of Maria's house. When Tony goes home, he stops by Doc's Drugstore and sees that the JETS and the SHARK are holding a council of war there.

The fight is to take place under the elevated railway bridge. Tony gets them to decide to fight without weapons and "just" fight a duel. The next evening comes and Tony and Maria meet at the bridal shop where Maria works. There Anita, Bernardo's girlfriend, notices that Maria loves Tony, but she doesn't want to tell anyone. There Tony and Maria play their wedding. Here he promises to prevent her from fighting between the two street gangs. Arrived at the elevated railway bridge Tony tries to mediate, but he is only insulted and called a coward. Suddenly Riff intervenes to protect Tony, and the leader of the JETS is stabbed to death by the leader of the SHARKS. Thereupon Tony kills



Bernardo in the affect. Maria is still waiting for her lover at the Roof, but Chino appears and tells Maria that Tony has killed her brother. In Maria's reaction Chino notices that she loves Tony. Tony flees to Maria and tells her everything. She forgives him. Anita comes and Tony has to leave quickly. Anita sees Maria's lover for a moment and is shocked that Maria forgives her brother's murderer. When Lieutenant Shrank, who does not tolerate unrest in his district, comes to question Maria, the lovers have to separate. Anita is finally persuaded to deliver a message to Tony, who is hiding in Doc's shop in the basement. But when Anita arrives at the store, the JETS present prevent her from meeting Tony, humiliate her and insult her. In her anger she tells that Chino has shot Maria so that he can kill him, too. When Tony is about to visit Chino, he suddenly sees Maria and runs towards her, but at the same moment Chino passes by and actually shoots him. Tony dies in Maria's arms. In deep sorrow Maria also wants to shoot herself (with Chino's gun), but she sinks down and bursts into tears. The JETS and the SHARKS carry Tony away together and so the two gangs have made a first step towards a good life together.



The score is divided into two main sections: **Step-by-Step-Programm.** and **Real-Time-Programm.**

Step-by-Step-Programm. shows a 16-beat sequence with four measures of 4 beats each. The beats are numbered 1 through 16. Above the sequence, four measures are labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4, with downward arrows pointing to the first beat of each measure. The drum parts for Hi-Hat, Snare, and BD (Bass Drum) are shown as vertical lines with dots indicating hits. The Hi-Hat has hits on every beat. The Snare has hits on beats 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15. The BD has hits on beats 1, 5, 9, and 13.

Real-Time-Programm. shows musical notation for several instruments:

- Drums:** A staff with a treble clef and common time signature (C). It shows a sequence of notes corresponding to the drum hits in the step-by-step section.
- Fill:** A staff with a treble clef and common time signature (C). It shows a sequence of notes, including a quarter bass drum hit.
- Ac.-Git. (Advanced):** A staff with a treble clef and common time signature (C). It shows a sequence of notes, including an advanced even in 16ths.
- Piano (Variation):** A staff with a treble clef and common time signature (C). It shows a sequence of notes, including a variation in eighths.
- Strings (Main):** A staff with a treble clef and common time signature (C). It shows a sequence of notes, including a main rhythm line consisting of lying strings.
- BASS:** A staff with a bass clef and common time signature (C). It shows a sequence of notes, including a bass phrase adapted to the drums.

Programming instruction

This SLOW-BEAT has some special features: The snare lookup sounds only once in time to the third count time - quite unusual, because the rhythm conveys a pseudo-slowdown! But in connection with the accompanying instruments guitar and piano the reason becomes clear: The piano plays the broken chords as a variation in eighths, the guitar as an advanced even in 16ths! The main rhythm line consists only of the lying strings and a bass phrase adapted to the drums. For a change a "normal" 8-beat with two snare-guesses could be used in the game. The fill only consists of the quarter bass drum and is used for the title transitions.