

The Firebird, Scene 2 (1910), by Igor Stravinsky

Brief Set:

CD 1 **1**

Basic Set:

CD 1 **8**

In the second—and final—scene of the ballet *The Firebird*, Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971) repeats one melody over and over, creating variety and contrast through changes of dynamics, tone color, and rhythm. During this scene, the hero triumphs and becomes engaged to a beautiful princess.

The second scene begins softly but becomes increasingly grand as the music gradually grows louder (crescendo), more instruments play, and the melody is repeated at higher pitches. After this slow buildup to a climax, there's a sudden quiet as all the instruments but the strings stop playing. A quick crescendo then leads to a brilliant concluding section.

BU TUBE 4:20

Listening Outline to be read while music is heard

Brief Set: CD 1 Basic Set: CD 1

STRAVINSKY, *The Firebird*, Scene 2

Piccolo, 3 flutes, 3 oboes, English horn, 3 clarinets, bass clarinet, 3 bassoons, contrabassoon, 4 French horns, 6 trumpets, tuba, timpani, triangle, cymbals, bass drum, 3 harps, 1st violins, 2d violins, violas, cellos, double basses

(Duration, 3:06)

1 **8** 0:00

0:29

0:43

1:03

1:17

1:34

2 **9** 1:41 0:00

2:04 0:23

2:35 0:54

- Slow melody in French horn, soft (*p*), quivering string accompaniment.
 - Violins, soft, melody an octave higher. Flutes join.
 - Grows louder (crescendo) as more instruments enter.
 - Violins and flutes, loud (*f*), melody at even higher octave, crescendo to
 - Full orchestra, melody very loud (*ff*), timpani (kettledrums).
 - Suddenly very soft (*pp*), strings, quick crescendo to
- Brasses, very loud (*ff*), melody in quick detached notes, timpani.
 - Melody in slower, accented notes, brasses, *ff*, timpani, music gradually slows.
 - High held tone, *ff*, brass chords, extremely loud (*fff*), lead to sudden *pp* and crescendo to extremely loud close.