

# HOW TO READ THE VISUAL LISTENING GUIDE

The aim of the TSO Visual Listening Guide is to help you structure your listening—and enrich your understanding—of a symphonic masterwork in a visually engaging and comprehensible way, regardless of your musical background. The Guide is not a comprehensive representation of the musical score, but rather, is like a map of important sonic landmarks, showing when the main musical themes are presented, developed, and recur.

The annotated diagram below shows how to interpret the various elements of the Guide.



- 1 The main musical key in which this theme or section is played.
- 2 "Pill" with notation representing the theme. The notation indicates the rhythm and relative pitch levels played.
- 3 The title of this theme or section of music.
- 4 Icon representing the instrument playing the theme. Detail regarding what instrument is playing is provided in text underneath the "pill".
- 5 The dynamic level (loudness or softness) at which the theme is played (see legend at right).
- 6 Details about when a theme or motive is played multiple times by different instruments at varying dynamic levels.
- 7 Indicates that a particular section of music is repeated (i.e. played again).
- 8 A theme or section's title, without accompanying musical notation.

<b><i>fff</i></b>	<i>fortississimo</i> , very very loud	  
<b><i>ff</i></b>	<i>fortissimo</i> , very loud	
<b><i>f</i></b>	<i>forte</i> , loud	
<b><i>mf</i></b>	<i>mezzo-forte</i> , moderately loud	
<b><i>mp</i></b>	<i>mezzo-piano</i> , moderately soft	
<b><i>p</i></b>	<i>piano</i> , soft	
<b><i>pp</i></b>	<i>pianissimo</i> , very soft	
<b><i>ppp</i></b>	<i>pianississimo</i> , very very soft	
	<i>crescendo</i> , gradually getting louder	
	<i>decrescendo</i> , gradually getting softer	
	<i>fermata</i> , pause	