

QUESTIONS TO ASK A PIECE OF MUSIC

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How does it start? Where does it go?
Does it go fast, or does it go slow?
What happens again? Now, that's an *it*!
Is there another, and how do they fit:
end to end, interjecting, sometimes overlapping,
or keeping their distance, imitating while tracking?
Once loud. Now soft, and what is that hopping?
It was high; now it's low: Is it coughing and stopping?
Quickly or slowly, what's staying the same
while what, for a while, goes through a change?
What's by itself? Are there groups? Any friction?
How does it move, and what is its diction?
Does it step, or wildly leap?
Float unhampered, or creep creep, creep?
Does it sing, or merely stammer?
Shout and coo, or squawk in a clamor?
Does it dance, converse, or maybe, give a speech?
Waddle, or even, matter-of-factly screech?
Does it totter, then stop, or whine and peck,
keep quiet a while, pause, go on—then come back?
Is there stumbling, soaring, swooping?
Awkward jerks, or simply drooping?
Again and again, toward what is it tending?
How does it go through the process of ending?