

Exploring Music Test 1

Music is sound organized in time.

Pitch - a sound in music.

Melody - a logical succession of pitches

Melody shape/contour - is the wave of melody or a linear line.

Interval - the distance between two pitches.

Conjunct - intervals are close together.

Disjunct - intervals are far apart.

Phrase - a musical sentence.

Condense - stopping point in music; musical punctuation.

Rhythm - broad term for the time aspect of music; short & long duration of sounds and silences.

- Beat - a steady pulsation; lowest level of rhythm; more complicated durations occur above.
- Meter - a recurring pattern of strong (accented) and weak (unaccented) beats.
- Sample Meter
 - o Duple - 2 beats per measure, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2 accent on beat 1.
 - o Triple - 3 beats per measure 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3... accent on beat 1
 - o Quadruple (common time) - 4 beats per measure; 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-4. Accent on beat 1 & 3.

Syncopation - rhythm displacement; important rhythmic events occur off the beat.

Harmony - two or more pitches are played simultaneously; the vertical aspect of music. (Remember: melody is linear.)

Chord - three or more pitches played simultaneously.

Consonance - chords/harmony that sounds pleasing to your ears; a sense of harmonic rest.

Dissonance - chords/harmony that sounds harsh to your ears; a sense of harmonic tension.

Scales - a collection of pitches; the basic building blocks of music; scales are used to create the melody & harmony of music.

Major & Minor scales

- Tonality - the music focuses on a central pitch (tonic); music uses major &/or minor scales; functional harmony a hierarchy of chords progression.

Texture - the art of weaving melodies together.

- Monophy - a single melodic line, no harmony.
- Homophony - a prominent melodic line with harmonic accompaniment.
- Polyphony - two or more independent melodic lines occurring simultaneously.

Middle Ages (c. 476 – 1450)

Importance of church; patronage; religious music

Gregorian chant/plainchant – Religious music

- Voice of the church

General characteristics of Gregorian chant:

- Monophonic
- A cappella - voice only
- No large leaps/conjunct melodic lines
- Flowing melody
- No beat
- Latin text (Latin is the language of the church)

Text setting of Gregorian chants

- Syllabic – one pitch per syllable.
- Neumatic – 3-5 pitches per syllable
- Melismatic – more than 5 pitches per syllable.

Musical Notation – oral tradition to written notation.

Modes – scale patterns used.

Services of the Roman Catholic Church, divided into 2 categories

1. The office/canonical hours – daily schedule for prayers in monasteries and convents.
2. The Mass

The Mass

- Ordinary – Text always stays the same
- Proper – text very from day to day

The Rise of Polyphony (c. 850 – 1150)

- Regular rhythm and pitch notation developed
- Music preserved not improvised or of an oral tradition anymore
- By 1150, individual's composers became recognized.

Organum – early polyphony; add a voice to a Gregorian chant, eventually lead to greater independence of the voice.

Gothic Era (c.1150 -1450)

More cathedral built; Notre Dame Cath

Leonin – flourished 1150-1201; 2 voiced Organum

Perotin – flourished 1200; 3-4 voiced

Notre dame school: *gaude maria virgo*, early 13th century

- perotin style.

Secular Music in the Middle Ages

Secular music grew alongside sacred music

Classes of Musicians

Minstrels – wandering entertainers, lived on the fringe of society.

Poet-Musicians – flourished at courts

1. Troubadours – from S.France; members of aristocracy or royalty.
2. Trouveres – from N.France; members of aristocracy or royalty

Sang a song of love, war, laments, dance songs, unrequited love.

Round

- Polyphonic secular music
- Popular in England
- Voices in succession, staggered entrances
- “Summer is reumen” (summer is come) c. 1250
 - o English Round
 - o A cappella
 - o Features an ostinate – a repeated pattern

French Ars Nova

- New art
- Began in early 14th century(1300s)
- More complex than ars antique
- Features new developments in rhythm, meter, harmony, counterpoint

Guillaume de Machaut(c.1300 – 1377)

- Important poet-composer of Ars Nova
- Favored the chanson
 - o Chanson – French song based on love poetry
 - Based on poetic forms

Machaut, Puis qu'en oubli(since I am forgotten), mid-14th century

- Polyphonic chanson
- Poetic form: Rondeau (musical sections repeat)

Instrumental Music

- Supported vocals, substituted vocals
- Oral tradition and improvised
- 2 categories: strings, percussion, woodwinds, etc.
- Also divided according to their use: bas (soft, indoor) and haut (loud, Outdoor)

Piffaro