

MUS 125 Final Exam Study Guide

Describe/identify the following:

Binary Form- AB; "Pop-goes the weasel."

Ternary Form- ABA; "Twinkle little star."

Program Music (Programmatic Music)- Music with a story in it. Can be written or without lyrics.

Absolute Music – Music that does not tell a story, exists for its own sake.

Sprechstimme- A vocal style in which the melody is spoken at approximate pitches rather than sung on exact pitches; *developed by Arnold Schoenberg*.

Coda- The last part of a piece, usually added to a standard form to bring it to a close.

Concerto- Soloist and an accompanying ensemble.

Sonata Allegro Form- The opening movement of a multimovement cycle, consisting of themes that are stated in the first section (exposition), developed in the second section (development), and restated in the third section (recapitulation).

A capella- unaccompanied vocal music.

Ground Bass- Repeating bass line.

Chromaticism- Using the twelve half-steps that span the octave. Romantic-era composers used this scale to change their music with emotion.

Prepared Piano (what is it?)- Piano whose sound is altered by the insertion of various materials between the strings. *Invented by John Cage*.

Council of Trent- (1545-1563) Cardinals who regulated church music. With recommendations of a pure vocal style that would respect the integrity of the sacred texts, avoid virtuosity and encourage piety. Because they didn't like the corruption of traditional chants and the irreverent attitude of church musicians. They claimed, the sacred text was made unintelligible by the elaborate texture.

Ritornello- The primary melody which returns.

Polyphony (polyphonic Texture)- Combination of 2+ simultaneous melodic lines.

*single most important development in the history of western music.

Monophony (monophonic Texture)- A single melodic voice accompanied by a very simple accompaniment.

Homorhythm (Homorhythmic Texture)- All sounds or voices occur in the same rhythm.

Homophony (homophonic Texture)- Texture with principal melody and accompanying harmony.

Basso Continuo- System, 2 instrumentalists, one playing bass line, and other filling in harmonies. Providing a foundation for an instrumental melody to unfold.

Figured Bass- Notation basso continuo uses. Composer writes a number above or below bass note indicating the chord required.

Imitative Polyphony- Voices echoing in layers, very similarly.

Ostinato- A short melodic, rhythmic, or harmonic pattern that is repeated throughout a work or a section of one.

Fugue (be able to describe generally what this is)- A single theme which pervades the entire fabric. Entering in one voice and then in another. Based on the principle of imitation.

The Classical Period (dates – general musical/artistic descriptions)

-(1750-1825)

- Emphasis on form
- Beauty is found in simplicity
- Emotional content can be characterized as “aloof”

*Characterized by order, objectivity, and harmonious proportion. Classicists emulated the art and architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. The American Revolution (1775-83) and the French Revolution (1789-99) profoundly changed the political Systems and social order. Saw significant advances in science and ideas, and the Industrial Revolution made mass production possible.

-Classical music is characterized by a singable, lyrical melody; diatonic harmony; regular rhythms and meters; homophonic texture; and frequent use of folk elements.

The Symphony (Information from the document “Movements_Classical Symphony.pdf”)

-Movements of The Classical Symphony(most common)

1 st movement; “Allegro”	<u>-Sonata Allegro Form</u>
2 nd movement; “Largo” “Adagio” “Andante”	<u>-ABA</u>
3 rd movement; “Minuet and trio” “Scherzo”	<u>-ABA</u>
4 th movement; “Allegro Molto” “Presto”	<u>-Sonata Allegro Form or Rondo</u>

Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 5”

- Basic information from the CD ROM software presentation of this entire work.

First Movement: Allegro con brio; sonata-allegro form, 2/4 meter. C minor.

-Famous motive is basis for entire movement; heard in sequence, extended beyond 4 notes, and turned upside down. Dramatic tonal shifts between major and minor.

Second Movement: Andante con moto; Theme and variations form, with two themes, 3/8. meter, A-flat minor.

-Movement based on 2 contrasting themes. Varied melodies, harmonies, rhythms, tempo, and accompaniment.

Third Movement: Allegro; scherzo and trio form, 2/4 meter. C minor.

-Quickly ascending scherzo theme, followed by recurrence of 4-note rhythmic idea from first movement. Long transition into 4th movement without any break.

Fourth Movement: Allegro; sonata form 4/4 meter, C major.

-Triumphant theme in trumpets brilliantly proclaiming C-major. Long coda affirms victorious C-major tone.

Terms related to Opera

- **Prima Donna**-Self-absorbed/first lady. Lead female role.
- **Libretto**- Text. Written story.
- **Opera Seria**- Serious opera.
- **Castrato (pl. castrati)**- Castrated young boys so voice would stay high. They were highly regarded.
- **Recitative**-Plot and action advanced through. Speech-like declamations of the text.

- Aria**- Lyrical songs, highly emotional nature.
- Trouser Role**- A character who is male, sung by woman to play the role.
- Opera Buffa**- Comic opera.

Piano vs. Harpsichord (primary mechanical differences – volume differences)

-**Harpsichord**- Early Baroque keyboard instrument in which the strings are plucked by quills instead of being struck with hammers like the piano.

-**Piano**- Keyboard instrument whose strings are struck with hammers controlled by a keyboard mechanism; pedals control dampers in the strings that stop the sound when the finger releases the key.

*The harpsichord's tone could not be sustained like that of the piano. The pressure of the fingers on the keys of the harpsichord varied the tone only slightly, producing subtle dynamic nuances unlike the piano's extremes of loud and soft.

The Romantic Period (dates – general musical/artistic descriptions)

(1820-1900)

- Increased Emotionalism
- Nationalism
- Exoticism
- The "Supernatural"

*Dramatic, programmatic, signified something. The orchestra grew in size and sound when new and improved instruments were introduced; in response, composers demanded new levels of expression. Romantic music is characterized by memorable melodies, richly expressive harmony, and broad expanded forms. Women musicians achieved an elevated status in society as performers. Song structure included strophic and through composed forms, some songs fall between the two, into a modified strophic form. The Lied was a favored Romantic genre. Composers wrote song cycles that unified a group of songs by poem or theme.

Lied (Lieder)- A German-texted solo vocal song with piano accompaniment

Program Symphony (Berlioz "Symphony Fantastique") – Multimovement music endowed with literary or political associations.

"Idée fixe" (what is it – to what/who's piece is it attributed) –(Fixed idea) recurrent theme which symbolizes the beloved in Berlioz's Symphony Fantastique.

The story behind "Symphony Fantastique" by Berlioz (lecture and reading)

-A 5 movement program symphony written by Hector Berlioz, while living in Italy in 1830 at the age of 27. The program for the work was drawn from his own personal life. His score describes "a young musician of morbid sensibility and ardent imagination, in lovesick despair, who has poisoned himself with opium. The drug, too weak to kill, plunges him into a heavy sleep accompanied by strange visions, The beloved one herself becomes for him a melody, a recurrent theme that haunts him everywhere."