

Listening to Music Exam Notes

Monday, December 12, 2016 7:02 AM

Section 1

Listening List:

1) Barack Obama, Amazing Grace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN05jVNBS64>

- Blues - an expressive, soulful style of singing that emerged from the African American spiritual and work song at the end of the nineteenth century
- Blue note - the lowered third, seventh and sometimes fifth degrees of the otherwise major scale; the degree of inflection may vary considerably

2) Krzysztof Penderecki, Threnody: To the Victims of Hiroshima: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HilGthRhwP8>

Sound effects:

- Quarter-tone interval (half the size of a half step)
- Tone clusters - a highly dissonant, closely spaced collection of pitches sounding simultaneously
- Playing the highest note possible on the instrument
- Playing with the bow on the bridge of the violin
- Playing with the bow above the fingerboard of the violin
- Playing with the wood of the bow
- Playing on the tailpiece of the instrument
- Striking the string with the wood of the bow
- Striking the upper sounding board of the violin with the nut of the bow or the finger tips
- Slow and fast vibrato
- Timbre: violins, violas, cellos, basses
- 52 instruments playing high string sound in the beginning
- Indeterminate pitches
- No melody, tonality (atonal), meter, or grouping of rhythm
- Originally named 8'37
- Unmeasured
- Glissando - a continuous or sliding movement from one pitch to another
- Canon - a collection of works that are considered to be somehow central to a cultural establishment

- Disjunct
- Originally conceived as an abstract piece and it was only later that it was associated with an event
- Non traditional sound effects created by unconventional playing techniques
- Creates a sense of form by moving through five sections of diverse sound

3) John Cage, 4'33": <https://youtu.be/HypmW4Yd7SY?t=18s>

- Aleatoric music - music composed by means which, at least in part, involve the use of chance
- Indeterminacy - with respect to musical performance, aspects of a performance which are not determined prior to the act of performing. Elements in which the performer has choice during the act of performing

4) Niccolò Paganini, Caprice No. 24: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPcnGrie_M

- Church form (music bringing glory to God)
- Violin, pianist (background)
- In variation form with theme at beginning
- Virtuoso - a performer with extraordinary musical and mechanical ability on a particular instrument
- A bit of changing dynamics
- Sounds like a bit of undulation in the beginning

5) Franz Liszt, Grand Galop Chromatique: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmq5JBpFf9w>

- Chromatic scales in the melody (sounds fancy)
- Virtuoso - a performer with extraordinary musical and mechanical ability on a particular instrument
- Change in dynamics (crescendo, goes from really quiet to extremely loud)
- Revolutionary piano
- Introduction of virtuoso to piano
- Really fast piece
- Ascending melody

6) Frank Sinatra, Night and Day: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn_cfbK9M14

- Legato - played smoothly with no separation between successive notes
- Back beat - a sharp attack on beats 2 and 4 of a four beat bar
- Swing music played by a big band; includes swing feel; Sinatra vocal style is a

blend of jazz and legato opera style; medium vocal range using full sound

- Swing - jazz from the period 1935 - 45, usually known as the Swing Era; the standard instrumental combination for swing music is the big band
- Big band ensemble (players are grouped into instrumental sections): rhythm (piano, guitar, string bass, drums), brass (trumpets (2-5), trombones (1-5)), reeds (saxophone (3-5) (most saxophonists played the clarinet as well); alto and tenor saxophones most frequently used but by late 1930s baritone also found) many big bands also featured a string section
- Swing feel - a jazz specific feeling created by rhythmic contrast within a particular rhythmic framework (usually involving a walking bass and a steady rhythm on the drummer's ride cymbal); the contrast may be manifested in a variety of relationships between long and short notes
- Walking bass - a bass line featuring four equal beats per bar
- Ride cymbal - a cymbal with a clear, focused timbre that is played more or less continuously
- 32-bar popular song form - a standard song form, usually divided into shorter sections, such as AABA or AAB

7) Bill Haley and his Comets, Rock Around The Clock:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSzdN8ipyws>

- 12 bar blues
- Features boogie-woogie bass line and strong back beats
- Boogie-woogie: a percussive and propulsive jazz piano style characterized by forceful, repeated bass figuration, almost always using the 12-bar format of the blues
- Back beats - a sharp attack on beats 2 and 4 of a four beat track

8) Bee Gees, Stayin' Alive: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fa9n7Girhsl>

- Disco - a form of dance music that dominated popular music during the late 1970s and featured regular bass drum accents on every beats, and frequent use of orchestral instruments and synthesizers
- The driving, steady precision of the disco beat is assisted by the use of electronic drum machines, drum samples or click tracks
- Minimizes the importance of lead guitar and tends to include synthesizer or electric piano
- Tendency towards soaring vocal lines
- Audience orientated music for dancing
- Features lavish, orchestrated passages within the music

9) Jeff Mills, The Bells: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Epe1KIU4gw>

10) Chez Damier, Can You Feel It? (MK-Dub remix):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ml9yDkjenI>

11) Tiësto, Adagio for Strings Remix Trance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EaE0_gQLw0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EaE0_gQLw0

12) Skream, Ruten: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEmM6vVFrao>

13) Jean-Baptiste Lully, Atys: Prologue: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZjJeb6MptU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZjJeb6MptU>

- Period instrument orchestra (trying to sound like original production)
- Chorus
- Some dissonance
- Emphasis on visual aspects
- Strings
- Playing with old instruments
- French Overture: a two part form with each part repeated. The first part is a slower processional featuring the heavy use of double dotting. The second is a faster section featuring lots of fugal counterpoint.
- Air (Italian-Aria): text set to more lyrical music in a less natural style. Used for moments where characters are reflecting on events in the opera (similar to soliloquy). In French opera, the style was of Airs was kept elegant and simple. In Italian, Arias were moments of vocal pyrotechnics where the singers could show off their abilities
- Recitative: a section of text set to music in a more natural declamatory style. Usually employed when the text is moving the plot along
- Divertissement: a short work, whose action may be only tenuously connected to the main plot of an opera, featuring dancing and spectacular choruses with lots of costumes. A means of incorporating the ballet tradition into opera

14) Richard Wagner, Prelude from Tristan and Isolde:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Bwl3GYBM3E>

- Two motives, harmonized with the Tristan chord (most famous chord in music)
- Dissonance
- Chromatically ascending motive

- Motive not sounding finished till the very end
- Dissonance becomes an emblem of desire
- Overture
- Legato long lines of cello and violin
- Prelude taking forever to end, 5 hour long piece
- "Tristan Chord" - F, B, D sharp, G sharp
- Gesamkunstwerk - "a total work of art". Belief that the future of art lay in dramas which would incorporate into itself many separate arts, such as poetry, music, painting, staging, acting

15) Richard Wagner, Liebestod from Tristan and Isolde:

<https://youtu.be/OAEkTK6aKUM?t=7m52s>

- Chromatic things in orchestra from prelude
- Leitmotiv - theme or motive which is connected with a particular emotion, character, thing or event.

16) Claude Debussy, Canope: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHbasmikaoc>

- Program music - extra musical association to the piece. Ex: Jaws, you can't help but think of the shark
- Canope jar is a jar that you put dead people in, debussy has some in his house for some reason. Uses music that sounds old to him to sound Egyptian (didn't know what Egyptian sounds like)
- Chant like melodies which consists of lot of parallel motion
- Flute like melodies (evocative perhaps of the Ancient Greek aulos)
- Long sustained harmonies evocative of a lyre-like accompaniment
- Chromatically inflected modes indicating an awareness of Ancient Greek musical theory.
- Played in intervals of 5th
- Processional sound, chords sound flutelike (could refer to Greek Olos ancient flute)
- Prelude: in the 18th century and earlier, a brief improvisatory piece used to set the scene for a set of dance pieces or another more musically deliberate piece which follows it. In the 19th century, it came to refer to a short character piece with a unified mood.

17) Alexander Scriabin, Prometheus: the Poem of Fire:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6osJBtQRjoY>

(this link has been updated; the previous version is no longer available)

- Symphony, or symphonic poem, with elements of a piano concerto.
- Synaesthesia - the association of multiple sense in perception (i.e seeing colors and/or hearing when listening to music or reading numbers)

colors and/or shapes when listening to music or reading numbers)

- Use of sustained and unresolved dissonance as a metaphor for a state of desire (Mystic chord)

18) Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBKjWRjwMkY>

- National anthem of South Africa
- National anthems - patriotic songs adopted by nations through tradition or decree and valued, like a nation's flag, for their ability to arouse feelings of national pride and solidarity
- Sequence - in a melody, the repetition of a motive at successively higher or lower degrees of the scale
- Public transcripts : affirm and perpetuate an existing power structure (Patriotism)

19) Sex Pistols, God Save The Queen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvMxqcgBhWQ>

- Modified strophic form: recurring at points within the strophic pattern is a bridge and new music is introduced in an appended Coda
- No conventional use of a melodic line (pitches in the verse section tend to be indefinite)
- Verse verse bridge form
- Coda
- Chordal introduction
- Punk rock not as technical - a subgenre of rock music that evolved as a form of social protest among English and working-class youths in the mid-1970s; punk groups rejected rock's emphasis on technique and professionalism and relied instead upon sheer volume and rhythmic energy; their dress and behaviour were often intended to shock
- 3 chords in verse, 2 in bridge
- No melodic line or rhythm
- Words follow the syntax of words
- Public transcripts (social commentary)

20) Giulio Caccini, Io, che dal Ciel cader: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFUbgKNjIVc> (to 1:54 only)

- Basso continuo - organ, lute. An independent bass line continuing throughout a piece on the basis of which harmonies are extemporized on a chord-playing instrument
- Singer sings over text
- No meter
- She follows syntax of the words

- one follows syntax of the words

- Ornamentation
- Intermedio - a work performed between the acts of a play
- Hidden transcripts : include metaphorical or coded messaging (propaganda)

Section 2:

Lecture 7

Slide 6

The 80/90 MP3 Rule

1. The Fligor Rule (2009):
 - Maximum settings to obtain 50% maximum dosage...
 - MP3 volume at 80% for 90 minutes
 - Depends on the earphones uses; some earphones "isolate the ear", some earphones have different elector-acoustic characteristics.

Slide 12-19

1. 80/90 rule for MP3 players
2. Use isolator earphones, moderation and listen less often
3. Noise exposure is "almost like music exposure"
4. We know from factory noise exposure that 85 decibels (dBA) will eventually cause a permanent hearing loss

Slide 28 - 32

Damage to the cochlear hair cells:

1. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) is a metabolic by-product of cells. High noise levels can cause toxic amounts of ROS.
2. Anti-oxidants may mitigate the ROS and minimize hearing loss from loud noise.
3. L-NAC is an anti-oxidant.

Biochemical things and hearing loss

1. Smoking and exercise: availability of oxygen in the inner ear
2. Disliking music and stress: cortisol... glutamate... ototoxicity

Caffeine and Noise Exposure

1. Guinea pigs who were exposed to both caffeine and noise exposure had greater TTS as measure by ABR, and less recovery than those who were only exposed to noise.

Lecture 10

Basic definition and characteristics of EDM and the predecessors of EDM

1. EDM (Electronic Dance Music) is an umbrella term for the numerous genres and sub0genres of electronic music that are primarily performed at, and produced for, nightclubs and raves.
2. A rave is a term used to describe long lasting (often illegal or unsanctioned) parties typically featuring loud music mixed by DJs.
3. EDM performances consist of a DJ mixing together recording, one after another
4. EDM pieces are called tracks. They are composed (produced) with synthesizers, drum machines, sequencers and computers.
5. Many EDM genres are affiliated with youth sub-cultures, groups that operate "underground" or illegally.

Shared Characteristics of EDM genres

1. Four-to-the-floor Kick Drum.
2. Hand claps or snare hits on beats 2 and 4 (back beats)
3. Loop based: built on small sections of music (loops) that are designed to be continuously repeated
4. Sub-sections built on Duple metre (1-2-4-8-16-32).
5. Edits and Remixes
6. Rife with genres, sub-genres, and sub-sub genres.

Predecessors

1. Electro-Acoustic music
2. Experimental pop
3. Disco
4. Electro funk