

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Sonic Structures and Cultural Echoes 7th Grade Quiz

Deconstruct polyphonic textures and analyze how 19th-century nationalism influenced orchestral compositions through critical listening and structural evaluation.

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**1. In Bedřich Smetana's 'Ma Vlast,' the recurring 'Moldau' theme represents a river flowing through Bohemia. Which musical concept best describes using a melody to represent a specific non-musical idea?**

**Answer:** A) Program music

Program music is designed to tell a story or represent a landscape, whereas absolute music exists only for its own sake.

**2. In a Fugue, such as those by J.S. Bach, the texture is primarily homophonic because all voices move in the same rhythm to support a single melody.**

**Answer:** B) False

A fugue is a prime example of polyphony, where multiple independent melodic lines (voices) intersect simultaneously.

**3. When analyzing the 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst, listeners often note the use of irregular time signatures like 5/4 in 'Mars, the Bringer of War.' This rhythmic choice is used to create a sense of:**

**Answer:** C) Instability and tension

Asymmetrical meters like 5/4 feel 'off-balance' compared to standard 4/4 time, effectively building psychological tension.

**4. Analyzing Fela Kuti's 'Zombie' requires understanding 'Afrobeat.' Which two cultural/musical influences primarily merged to form this specific genre?**

**Answer:** B) Nigerian Highlife and American Funk

Afrobeat is a synthesis of West African musical traditions like Highlife with the complex rhythms of James Brown-style Funk.

**5. In the 'Dies Irae' section of Verdi's Requiem, the sudden, crashing use of the bass drum and brass at a fortissimo level is an example of \_\_\_\_\_ being used to evoke terror.**

**Answer:** A) Dynamics

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Dynamics refer to the volume of the sound; extreme loudness (fortissimo) is a primary tool for conveying power or fear.

**6. The use of 'Pentatonic scales' in Claude Debussy's 'Voiles' was heavily influenced by his exposure to Javanese Gamelan music at the 1889 Paris Exposition.**

**Answer:** A) True

Debussy's Impressionist style was significantly shaped by non-Western scales and textures he encountered from Southeast Asia.

**7. When evaluating a piece in 'Theme and Variations' form, such as Haydn's 'Surprise Symphony,' what is the listener's primary analytical task?**

**Answer:** B) Tracking how the core melody is modified through rhythm, harmony, or tone color

Variation form relies on the listener recognizing a 'theme' and then evaluating the creative ways the composer alters it.

**8. Béla Bartók's 'Concerto for Orchestra' is notable for its use of 'Ethnomusicology.' This means Bartók specifically researched and incorporated \_\_\_\_\_ into his formal compositions.**

**Answer:** B) Folk music of rural populations

Bartók was a pioneer in studying the music of various cultures (folk music) and using those scales and rhythms in classical works.

**9. A 'Leitmotif' is a short, recurring musical phrase associated with a particular person, place, or idea, commonly found in the operas of Richard Wagner.**

**Answer:** A) True

Leitmotifs function as musical signposts, helping the audience follow the narrative through melodic cues.

**10. Which analytical lens would you use to discuss why Dmitri Shostakovich included a repetitive, 'militaristic' march in his Symphony No. 7 during the Siege of Leningrad?**

**Answer:** B) Historical and political context

Evaluating the 'why' behind Shostakovich's choices requires understanding the specific wartime conditions and political pressures of the USSR.