

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

## Answer Key: Timbre and Tension: Advanced Music Appreciation for 9th Grade

Synthesize structural analysis and cultural context by evaluating works from Fanny Mendelssohn to Fela Kuti in this summative assessment.

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**1. Which analytical lens best explains the 'ostinato' function in Fela Kuti's Afrobeat composition 'Zombie'?**

**Answer:** B) A recursive rhythmic foundation reflecting social resistance and trance-like states

In Afrobeat, the ostinato (a continually repeated musical phrase) serves as a polyrhythmic anchor that drives the political and physical energy of the piece.

**2. True or False: In Gyorgy Ligeti's 'Atmosphères', the composer abandons traditional melody and rhythm in favor of 'micropolyphony' to explore orchestral timbre.**

**Answer:** A) True

Ligeti utilized micropolyphony to create dense sonic textures where individual lines are indistinguishable, focusing the listener on shifts in sound color rather than melody.

**3. Fanny Mendelssohn's 'Das Jahr' represents a complex Cycle of Character Pieces; the movement 'September' utilizes \_\_\_\_\_ to evoke the imagery of a flowing river.**

**Answer:** B) Rapid 16th-note arpeggios

Mendelssohn uses fluid, rapid arpeggiated figures in the piano to mimic the motion of water, a hallmark of Romantic era programmatic music.

**4. When evaluating the cultural impact of 'Le Sacre du printemps' (The Rite of Spring), which factor most contributed to the infamous 1913 riot?**

**Answer:** C) Unconventional jarring accents and primitive, non-traditional choreography

Stravinsky's use of bitonality, heavy syncopation, and Nijinsky's earthbound choreography violently broke with the aesthetic expectations of the Parisian elite.

**5. True or False: The 'Through-composed' form found in Schubert's 'Erlkönig' means that the music repeats the same melody for every stanza of the poem.**

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**Answer:** B) False

Through-composed music features new music for each section of text to follow the unfolding drama, unlike strophic form which repeats the same melody.

**6. In the context of the Japanese \_\_\_\_\_ tradition, the concept of 'Ma' (negative space) is as critical as the notes themselves.**

**Answer:** A) Shakuhachi

Shakuhachi flute music emphasizes the silence and breath between sounds, showcasing the philosophical importance of space in Japanese aesthetics.

**7. How does Arvo Pärt's 'Spiegel im Spiegel' achieve its meditative effect through structural minimalism?**

**Answer:** A) Using 'tintinnabuli' style with simple triad patterns and scale movements

Pärt developed the tintinnabuli style to simplify music to its essence, using bell-like resonances and minimalist patterns to create emotional depth.

**8. Duke Ellington's 'Black and Tan Fantasy' utilizes the \_\_\_\_\_ technique in the trumpet to symbolize racial and social struggle in the 1920s.**

**Answer:** B) Growl/Plunger mute

The 'growl' sound created by Bubber Miley using a plunger mute was a signature of Ellington's 'jungle style,' providing a gritty, vocal-like expressive quality.

**9. Which statement best synthesizes the relationship between Baroque 'Basso Continuo' and a modern Jazz 'Rhythm Section'?**

**Answer:** B) Both provide a structural harmonic foundation while allowing for upper-voice improvisation

Continuo and jazz rhythm sections both serve the dual purpose of keeping time and providing the harmonic 'roadmap' that soloists navigate.

**10. True or False: The 'Dies Irae' chant has been reused by composers like Berlioz and Rachmaninoff to represent themes of death and judgment.**

**Answer:** A) True

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The 'Dies Irae' is a plainchant from the Requiem Mass that has become a widely recognized musical symbol for mortality in Western classical music.