

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Crack the Sonic Code: Advanced 10th Grade Music Analysis

Synthesize complex musicological concepts across 10 challenging questions involving polytonality, social critique, and avant-garde structural innovations.

1. In Charles Ives' 'The Unanswered Question', how serves the spatial arrangement of the trumpet, flutes, and strings to reinforce the piece's philosophical inquiry?

Answer: A) The strings represent 'The Silence of the Druids' through a consonant, unchanging tonal background

Ives used the strings as a 'druid' background that remains indifferent to the trumpet's 'perennial question of existence,' showcasing early American avant-garde philosophy.

2. The use of 'Sprechstimme,' a cross between singing and speaking, is a defining characteristic of Arnold Schoenberg's 1912 work titled _____.

Answer: B) Pierrot Lunaire

Pierrot Lunaire is a seminal Expressionist work where the vocalist uses Sprechstimme to enhance the eerie, theatrical quality of the poetry.

3. Steve Reich's 'Music for 18 Musicians' utilizes the concept of 'phasing,' where two identical patterns gradually shift out of unison to create new psychoacoustic textures.

Answer: A) True

Minimalism, specifically Reich's style, relies on phase shifting to create complex rhythmic interferences from simple repeated motifs.

4. Dmitri Shostakovich's 'Symphony No. 5' is often analyzed as a 'forced celebration.' Which historical context best explains this interpretation?

Answer: B) It was a response to Soviet state censorship, masking mourning under a triumphant finale

Shostakovich composed the work during the Great Purge; while the surface seems triumphant to appease Stalin, many scholars interpret the finale as a depiction of 'forced' rejoicing.

5. How does the 'Tristan Chord' from Wagner's 'Tristan und Isolde' function as a turning point in music history?

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Answer: C) It delayed resolution of dissonance, signaling the eventual breakdown of functional tonality

The Tristan chord's lack of immediate resolution created a sense of suspension that paved the way for Modernism and atonality.

6. The 1971 album 'What's Going On' by _____ is considered a landmark in soul music for its sophisticated orchestration and thematic focus on environmentalism and war.

Answer: B) Marvin Gaye

Marvin Gaye's concept album broke Motown's formula by addressing social politics and utilizing seamless transitions between tracks.

7. In the 'Aleatory Music' of John Cage, such as 'Music of Changes,' the composer uses mathematical constants like Pi to determine every note precisely.

Answer: B) False

Aleatory music refers to 'chance' music. Cage used the I Ching (Book of Changes) to decide musical elements, rather than fixed mathematical constants like Pi.

8. Béla Bartók's 'Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celesta' is noted for its use of the 'Golden Ratio' and which other structural technique?

Answer: A) Arch Form (ABCBA)

Bartók often used symmetrical Arch Form (or bridge form) to create a sense of balance and mathematical elegance in his modernist compositions.

9. Krzysztof Penderecki's 'Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima' utilizes _____, a technique where various pitches are played so close together they form a solid block of sound.

Answer: B) Tone Clusters

Penderecki used tone clusters and graphic notation to evoke the searing horror and chaos of nuclear destruction.

10. Fela Kuti's 'Afrobeat' style synthesizes traditional Nigerian Yoruba music with American funk and jazz as a means of political subversion.

Answer: A) True

Afrobeat was inherently political, using complex polyrhythms and long-form grooves to critique the Nigerian government and colonial legacies.

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