

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Sonic Time Traveler: A 12th Grade Music Appreciation Quest

Moving beyond passive listening, students identify structural shifts and socio-political influences in masterworks ranging from Renaissance polyphony to Modernist dissonance.

1. While listening to the third movement of Berlioz's 'Symphonie Fantastique,' you hear a recurring musical theme representing a specific character. What is this technique called?

Answer: B) Idée fixe

Hector Berlioz used the 'idée fixe' (fixed idea) to represent the beloved throughout his programmatic symphony, predating Wagner's use of the leitmotif.

2. In Palestrina's 'Pope Marcellus Mass,' the primary objective of the musical structure was to ensure the sacred text remained clear and intelligible to the listener.

Answer: A) True

Following the Council of Trent, Palestrina's style emphasized clear declamation of text within a polyphonic texture to satisfy church reformers.

3. The _____ scale, often used by Debussy in 'Voiles,' lacks a tonal center because every interval between notes is exactly one full step.

Answer: C) Whole-tone

The whole-tone scale is a hallmark of Impressionist music, creating a dreamlike, floating quality by removing the 'leading tones' found in major and minor scales.

4. The use of 'Sprechstimme' in Arnold Schoenberg's 'Pierrot Lunaire' is an example of which musical movement's pursuit of intense emotional expression?

Answer: B) Expressionism

Expressionism sought to depict subjective, often dark psychological states; Sprechstimme (speech-singing) provided a distorted, heightened emotional effect.

5. In the 'Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima' by Krzysztof Penderecki, the composer uses traditional sonata-allegro form to organize the emotional chaos.

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Answer: B) False

Penderecki utilizes sonorism and avant-garde notation, focusing on blocks of sound and texture rather than traditional 18th-century structural forms.

6. When a jazz performer like Charlie Parker plays a rapid series of improvised notes over a complex chord progression, they are engaging in the _____ style.

Answer: B) Bebop

Bebop is characterized by fast tempos, virtuosic improvisation, and complex harmonies, shifting jazz from dance music to a sophisticated listener's art.

7. Which term best describes the texture of a J.S. Bach fugue, where multiple independent melodic lines interact simultaneously?

Answer: C) Polyphonic

Polyphony involves two or more simultaneous lines of independent melody, a central feature of Baroque counterpoint.

8. The 'Tale of the Heike' in Japanese Biwa music serves as a form of oral history, using specific musical motives to denote certain characters or battles.

Answer: A) True

Traditional Japanese Biwa recitations are deeply contextual, using narrative music to preserve historical epics and cultural memory.

9. Fela Kuti's music, often termed _____, combined traditional Yoruba percussion with highlife and funk to provide a platform for political activism in Nigeria.

Answer: B) Afrobeat

Afrobeat is a genre that fuses diverse styles and was used by Fela Kuti as a powerful tool for social and political critique.

10. The minimalist works of Steve Reich, such as 'Music for 18 Musicians,' primarily rely on which technique for structural development?

Answer: C) Phasing and repetition

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Minimalism focuses on gradual changes over time through the repetition of short rhythmic or melodic patterns, often shifting out of sync (phasing).