

Music 101, Spring 2015
Professor Kernohan

Midterm Exam: these are the answers I was looking for!

Definitions:

1. **Absolute music:** music that is about technique, form, structure, architecture. Music for music's sake. The composer wasn't consciously trying to tell a story.
2. **A cappella:** music for voices without instrumental accompaniment. From the Italian word for 'chapel,' referring to the practice of not using instruments in church services.
3. **Arpeggio:** a chord where the notes are played one at a time instead of simultaneously; also called a broken chord. *Not to be confused with allegro*, which is the Italian word for 'happy,' used in music to indicate a fast tempo.
4. **Concerto:** a piece with multiple movements for a soloist or small group accompanied by an orchestra.
5. **Program music:** Instrumental music that tells a story without lyrics. Sometimes inspired by poetry or other literature.
6. **Requiem:** the Roman Catholic mass for the dead, or funeral mass.
7. **Ritornello:** an instrumental section that recurs throughout a piece, like a refrain.
8. **Sacred music:** music used in religious services or with religious themes.
9. **Secular music:** music without religious themes, used for social gatherings and entertainment.
10. **Virtuosity:** being highly skilled and talented at playing a musical instrument, or other challenging pursuit.
11. **Define Gregorian Chant, and describe when and where it was performed, and how it influenced the development of classical music.**
 - A large collection of melodies composed during the Medieval Era for use in religious services in the Roman Catholic Church, named for Pope Gregory the Great
 - Traditionally believe to be divinely inspired, so individual composers didn't take credit for the melodies they wrote
 - Monophonic, mostly conjunct, unaccompanied, and free-flowing, without strict meter or rhythm
 - Latin text
 - Some of the melodies have been used by composers ever since, such as the Dies Irae
 - The system for writing down the melodies developed into the modern music notation system we still use.

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Identification: name the terms being described. (1 point each)

1. Musical texture where a melody is harmonized in other voices, and all voices move in the same rhythm.	Homorhythm
2. Musical texture with multiple independent voices, using counterpoint and sometimes using imitation.	Polyphony (includes fugue and canon)
3. An upside-down version of a musical theme or subject, where the direction of every interval is reversed	Inversion
4. Musical texture consisting of a single voice or line.	Monophony
5. Musical texture consisting of a prominent melody with other voices accompanying it.	Homophony

Important People: Write a brief biographical paragraph for each person listed below, including the following points:

- What era of music history were they from?
- What country were they from?
- What kind of music did they write, based on what we've discussed in class so far?
- How did they earn a living?
- How are they significant in music history?

1. Hildegard von Bingen

- Medieval Era
- Germany
- Monophonic melodies, similar to Gregorian Chant but more expressive
- She was a nun and abbess. She also wrote about science and medicine and was a political advisor to rulers
- She was one of the first composers whose music is credited to her instead of anonymous. She is considered a saint, though she was never officially canonized.

2. J.S. Bach

- Baroque Era
- Germany
- Cantatas, keyboard music, chamber music, orchestral music
- Church musician: organist, composer, choir director and teacher for churches and municipalities
- Regarded as a great organist in his lifetime, but not the most popular composer. His music was nearly forgotten after his death, until it was revived 70 years later. He is now regarded as the greatest classical composer. Wrote over 1000 works.

3. Antonio Vivaldi

- Baroque Era
- Italy (Venice)
- Concertos, operas, sacred music
- Violinist and teacher. Also an ordained priest.
- Known for writing over 500 concertos, 230 of them for violin. Made a fortune but squandered it and died in poverty.

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4. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- Classical Era
- Austria (Vienna)
- Sonatas, chamber music, symphonies, concertos, operas, sacred music
- Freelance composer and performer
- Was a child prodigy and acknowledged as a great composer, but had constant financial difficulties. Was composing a Requiem setting at the time of his death. His cause of death isn't known for certain, and a popular myth developed that he had been poisoned.