

Context

Location	· What part of the world is this from? (Western, Latin, Sub-Saharan African, Middle Eastern, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, etc.)
Time Period	· What musical period is this from? (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Twentieth Century, Contemporary)
Finality	· In what type of situation would this music be heard?

Rhythm

Tempo	· grave, adagio, lento, largo, andante, moderato, allegro, presto, vivace, etc. · tempo changes: accelerando, ritardando, allargando, ritenuto, rubato
Meter	· simple/compound · complex meter · duple/triple · multimeter · time signature
Notation	· syncopation · polyrhythm · ostinato · rhythmic motifs

Tone Color

Articulations	· marcato, staccato, legato, sforzando
Dynamics	· pianissimo, piano, mezzo-piano, mezzo-forte, forte, fortissimo · dynamic changes: crescendo, decrescendo, diminuendo, etc.
Ensemble	· type of ensemble
Instrumentation	· Sachs-Hornbassel Classification: aerophone (woodwind/brass), chordophone (strings), membranophone (drums), ideophone (mallet/auxiliary percussion) · voices: soprano, mezzo-soprano, alto, contralto, countertenor, tenor, baritone, bass
Ornamentation	· notated: trills, turns, appoggiaturas, mordents, glissandos, etc. · “special effects:” mutes, pizzicato, pitch bending, col legno, etc.

Melody

Location	· Who has the melody?
Contour	· conjunct/disjunct · phrasing
Tonality	· diatonic, pentatonic (hemitonic/anhemitonic), octatonic, chromatic, whole tone, atonal · modal/major/minor (natural, harmonic, melodic) · blues/jazz scales
Form	· binary (AB), ternary (ABA), ritornello (ABACADA...), rondo (ABACABA), sonata-allegro (exposition, development, recapitulation), theme and variations (A, A', A''), double variation (A, B, A', B', A'', B''), through-composed (ABCDE...), 12-bar blues (I-I-I-I-IV-IV-I-I-V-IV-I-I), song form (AABA), round/canon, fugue

Harmony

Location	· Who has the accompaniment?
Texture	· monophonic/polyphonic/homophonic · patterns (Alberti bass, repeated eighth notes, block chords, arpeggios, etc.)
Structure	· intervals · triads (major, minor, augmented, diminished) · upper extension chords (Cmaj ⁷ , Fmin ^{13(#11)}) · basso continuo (figured bass) · phrasing · key changes