

# LISTENING GUIDE – WESTERN ART MUSIC

|   | MEDIEVAL                         | HIGH MEDIEVAL  | RENAISSANCE  | BAROQUE   | CLASSICAL  | ROMANTIC   | TWENTIETH CENTURY  |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>CONTEXT</b><br>Genre, period, composer   | Gregorian Chant<br>Mass          | Notre Dame School<br>Organum<br><i>Léonin, Pérotin</i> | Madrigal<br>Motet<br><i>Palestrina, Des Prez</i>                           | Opera<br>Oratorio (Cantata)<br>Concerto<br>Sonata<br><i>Vivaldi, Handel, Bach</i>                       | Symphony<br><i>Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven</i>  | Lieder<br>Tone Poem<br>Gesamtkunstwerk<br><i>Schubert, Chopin, Wagner, Tchaikovsky</i> | Impressionism<br>Minimalism<br>Expressionism<br>Serialism<br><i>Saint-Saëns, Debussy, Adams, Schönberg, Stravinsky</i> |
| <b>TONE COLOR</b><br>Instrumentation, dynamics, effects, expression                       | Male choir                       | Male choir (w/ boys)                                   | SATB choir<br>Flute, recorder, shawm, crumhorn<br>Sackbut, trumpet<br>Lute | Violin, viola, cello<br>Flute, oboe, bassoon<br>Horn, trumpet<br>Harpsichord, harp<br>Terraced dynamics | Clarinet, English horn<br>Trombone<br>Tympani, cymbals, glockenspiel, piano<br>Crescendos/decrescendos | Piccolo, contrabassoon<br>Tuba, Wagner tuba<br>Double bass<br>All the other percussion | World Instruments<br>Electric Instruments<br>Synthesizers  |
| <b>MELODY</b><br>Contour, tonality, ornamentation, style, motifs, themes, accidentals     | Conjunct<br>Diatonic (modes)     | Cantus firmus (augmented chant)                        | (Aeolian, Ionian)  | Lots of ornamentation, major/minor, accidentals more common   | Simple and clear, some chromaticism, consonant, modulation to related keys                             | Modulations, lots of chromaticism, tonicization, leitmotif                             | Atonality<br>Polytonality<br>Disjunct<br>Octatonic   |
| <b>RHYTHM</b><br>Tempo, meter, ostinato, rhythmic motifs, syncopation, swing, polyrhythms | Free rhythm                      | Standardized note lengths<br>Compound meter            | Simple meter appears (Compound meter still used)<br>More variety in tempo  | Faster, denser rhythms, notes inégales, dotted rhythms  | Simple and clear<br>Faster tempos explored   | Dense rhythms, extreme tempos, tempo changes, polyrhythm                               | Multimeter<br>Syncopation<br>Polyrhythm  |
| <b>HARMONY</b><br>Intervals, chords, accompaniment  | Unison                           | Perfect intervals                                      | Chords (specifically, triads)  | Basso continuo, arpeggios, chords (triads), functional progression                                      | Alberti bass<br>Repeated eighth notes  | Upper extension chords, non-functional progression                                     | Dissonance<br>Cluster Chords   |
| <b>STRUCTURE</b><br>Form, phrasing, texture   | Monophonic<br>Strophic (textual) | Polyphonic   | Polyphonic with more parts (up to 40)                                      | Homophonic<br>Aria, Recitative, Chorus<br>Fugue, ritornello   | Theme and variations<br>Sonata form  | Leitmotif  |  |