

## Study Sheet for Music Appreciation Listening Test

### I. Middle Ages

- a. Monophonic chant – Gregorian Chant
- b. Parallel Organum - duplicated chant at a fifth interval up and the lines are parallel.

### II. Renaissance

- a. Characteristics of Renaissance Music
  1. Word painting – the musical representation of specific poetic images.
  2. Texture – chiefly polyphonic.
  3. Rhythm – rhythm more gentle (simple not complex)
  4. Melody – easy to sing and in step-wise directions.
  5. Dynamics – consistent
- b. Sacred Music in the Renaissance – the 2 main forms of sacred music are:
  1. *Motet* – a polyphonic choral work set to a sacred Latin text other than the ordinary of the mass.
  2. *Mass* – a polyphonic choral work set to the ordinary of the mass.
- c. Secular Music in the Renaissance
  1. *Madrigal* – a secular piece for several solo voices set to a short poem.

### III. Baroque Music

- a. Characteristics of Baroque Music
  1. Unity of Mood – basically one basic mood
  2. Rhythm – rhythmic continuity provides a compelling drive
  3. Dynamics – volume tends to remain constant for a stretch of time.  
(*Terraced Dynamics*) – a sudden shift of the dynamics level)
  4. Texture – predominantly polyphonic and less frequently homophonic.
  5. Chords and the Basso Continuo (Figured Bass)  
(*Basso Continuo*) - accompaniment consisting of a keyboard instrument (harpsichord, organ) and a low melodic instrument (violoncello, bassoon).
  6. Word painting – the musical representation of specific poetic images.

### IV. The Classical Style

- a. Characteristics of the Classical Style
  1. Contrast of Mood – may change gradually or suddenly.
  2. Rhythm – wealth of rhythmic patterns.
  3. Texture – predominantly homophonic
  4. Melody – tuneful, balanced and symmetrical.
  5. Dynamics – widespread use of *crescendo* / *decrescendo*.  
(*Piano*) - has the ability to use dynamics & replaces the harpsichord.

## V. Romantic Period

### a. Characteristics of Romantic Music

1. Individuality of Style – emphasis on self-expression.
2. Expressive Aims and Subjects – used all ranges of emotion & subject matter.
3. Nationalism and Exoticism
  - a. nationalism – music written with a specific national identity
  - b. exoticism – music written with materials drawn from foreign lands
4. Program Music – instrumental music associated with story or idea
5. Expressive Tone Color – used to obtain a variety of mood
6. Colorful Harmony – use of new chords and chromatics
7. Expanded Range of Dynamics, Pitch and Tempo
8. Forms: Miniature and Monumental – small pieces to huge operas
9. Rhythm – variety
10. Dynamics – extreme
11. Texture - homophonic