

Listening Guide

1. Prior Knowledge Base

- a. Historical
 - i. Historical understanding of that period
 - ii. Historical understanding of the composer
 - iii. Historical understanding of the piece
- b. Musical
 - i. Understanding of typical form of the period in question
 - ii. Understanding of conventional style practices of the period in question

2. Active Listening

- a. Medium/orchestration
 - i. Large/small orchestra
 - ii. Large/small chorus
 - iii. Chamber group
 - iv. Soloist
 - v. Notable instruments
- b. General
 - i. Texture
 - 1. Mono/homo/polyphonic, or all of above....
 - ii. Consonant
 - iii. Dissonant
 - iv. Tonality
 - 1. Major/Minor
 - 2. Modal
 - v. Tempo
 - 1. Meter
 - 2. Syncopation
 - 3. Fast/Slow
 - vi. Dynamics
 - 1. Loud/Soft, or many
 - 2. Crescendos, decrescendos, terraced
 - 3. Sudden accents
- c. Formal Structure
 - i. Theme
 - 1. Melodic (smooth)/angular
 - ii. Motive
 - iii. Overall Form

3. Post observations

- a. Long/short
- b. Exciting, interesting, boring
- c. Difficult/easy
- d. Good/bad
- e. Performance considerations
 - i. Hall acoustics
 - ii. Performance quality
 - iii. Audience response
 - iv. Your response