

# General Listening Tips!

Address some/all of the issues below, in ANY order. Start with the "Rule of Three" (A, Z, or in between):

## 1. Instrumentation/Ensembles

- a. Large (Full)/Small (Chamber)
- b. Orchestra/Band/Specific Instrument
  - i. Strings
  - ii. Woodwinds
  - iii. Brass
  - iv. Percussion (Non-pitched/Pitched)
- c. Keyboard (Piano/Organ/Harpsichord)
- d. Voices (Chorus/Choir)
  - i. Accompanied/Acapella
  - ii. Language (Latin, etc.)

## 2. Style

- a. Type of Piece (Chant, Organum, Motet, Mass, Chanson, Madrigal, Aria, Opera, Cantata, Oratorio, Suite, Symphony, Concerto, Sonata, String Quartet, Piano Piece, Art Song, Cycle, Tone Poem, Ballet, etc.)
- b. Approximate Period/Century
- c. (Composer, Title, Date)

## 3. Description/Analysis

- a. Texture(s)
  - i. Monophonic, Homophonic, Polyphonic
- b. Harmonic Materials
  - i. Tonal
    1. Major/Minor
    2. Modal
    3. Chromatic
    4. Other (Pentatonic, Whole Tone, Blues Scale)
  - ii. Atonal/Serial
  - iii. Dissonant/Consonant
  - iv. Thick/Thin Harmony
  - v. Simple/Complex Harmony
  - vi. Block/Apeggiated Harmony
- c. Rhythm
  - i. Meter/Non-meter
    1. Tempo (Allegro, Moderate, Adagio)
  - ii. Rhythm
    1. Simple, Complex, Syncopated, Arhythmic
- d. Melody
  - i. Stepwise, Skips
  - ii. Range (wide, narrow)
- e. Dynamics
  - i. Loud (Forte), Soft (Piano)
  - ii. Crescendos/Decrescendos/Accents
  - iii. Terrace Dynamics
- f. Form
  - i. Strophic, Through-Composed, Binary, Ternary, Rondo, Sonata Allegro, Theme and Variations, etc.
- g. Techniques
  - i. Imitation, Sequence, Ostinato, Repetition, Antiphonal Choirs, Text Painting, Sprechstimme, etc.
  - ii. Motivic Material Description (Knocking/Fate Motive, Rocket Theme, Idee Fixe, Leitmotive, etc.)
  - iii. Folk/National Influences