

Topic

- Some helpful guidelines for listening recognition

- This will become progressively more helpful with each exam,
- as you are exposed to a more and more period styles.

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- ▼ How do you identify a piece of classical music?

- think of the various ways to listen, using some of the elements of music as a guide.
- trust your ears to be more discerning than you may believe they are capable of.

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- ▼ 1. what's the timbre / overall sound?

- is it for orchestra?
- solo instrument?
- orchestra plus solo instrument?

- ▼ • voices only?

- what's the texture?
- monophonic?

- ▼ polyphonic?

- if so, maybe renaissance?

- homophonic?

- ▼ • voices with instruments?

- could it be opera?

- ▼ 2. what's the style?

- ▼ medieval? (remember that most medieval music was vocal)

- ▼ sacred music

- masses and motets

- ▼ secular music

- various secular genres not covered in this class

- ▼ renaissance (remember that most renaissance music was vocal, usually à cappella)

- ▼ sacred music

- masses and motets

- ▼ secular music

- madrigals

- ▼ • baroque

- the baroque style has both:
- vocal music (always with instrumental accompaniment)
- and
- instrumental music (remember the baroque concerto forms)

- also, remember baroque music is more ornate — busier — than classical period music

- classical

- romantic (19th century)

- 20th century

- ▼ 3. what genre is it written in?

- ▼ instrumental genres

- ▼ baroque style genres

- concerto grosso
- solo concerto

- ▼ classical style genres

- symphony (orchestral work)
- concerto (orchestra plus solo instrument)
- sonata (solo piano, or solo instrument accompanied by piano)
- ▼romantic style genres
 - symphony (orchestral work)
 - concerto (orchestra plus solo instrument)
 - sonata (solo piano, or solo instrument accompanied by piano)
- 4. what is the form (structure)? (being able to distinguish between sonata form or ritornello form can help pin down the period, and narrow down who the composer might be)
- ▼5. additional thoughts on vocal music (don't ignore the language component of a vocal work — it can provide a major clue as to when and who; combine your knowledge with what your ear can distinguish between languages, timbres (à cappella or accompanied?; solo voice or full chorus?)
 - does it sound like liturgical / sacred music? Palestrina?
 - does it sound secular? maybe a madrigal? As Vesta was..?
 - ▼confirm the last 2 by trying to determine the language.
 - English? liturgical music in English would most likely be from the Church of England.
 - Otherwise, an English language work may be a madrigal
 - Italian was the language of the original madrigal,
 - but we don't have an Italian madrigal on our listening list
 - ▼could it be opera?
 - again, what language?