

Wider listening: A Short History of Western Music

You need to develop an overview of the history of Western Music which needs to include information about pieces of music that you have listened to. I don't mind how you present this – it could be a Word document or Powerpoint or something more creative!

There are many approaches to this: chronological, through different genres, musical features through time. Make sure you have a list of key features for each Era.

Make sure that you listen to examples of music and tell me about them as part of your presentation/overview. There is a listening diary at the end of this document.

Things that should be included!

This isn't an exhaustive list – it's just to get you started and give you some ideas.

Musical eras
Baroque (1600-1750) Classical (1750-1810ish) Romantic (1810ish-1900) 20 th Century (1900-2000) Popular Music
Instruments and sonority
Development of violin family (from viols) Development of woodwind family Development of brass instruments The rise of percussion music in the orchestra The development of keyboard instruments Think about the development of the orchestra. New electric instruments and new effects that can be created on traditional instruments Electronically generated or manipulated sounds. Different types of voice, styles of singing. Performing techniques e.g. vibrato, harmonics, mutes
Dynamics
When were dynamic markings first added to notated music? How has the use of dynamic markings changed over history? Beethoven is quite interesting here! Also consider articulation markings such as staccato, accents etc.
Rhythm and tempo
Use of time signatures and how it has changed (particularly in the 20 th century) When were metronome markings first given? Rhythmic features in certain styles: dotted rhythms (and double-dotted), syncopations, poly-rhythms, cross-rhythms.
Texture
Monophony, homophony (and melody-dominated homophony), polyphony, heterophony, fugues, layering, counterpoint, parallelism, antiphony.
Form and Structure

Binary, ternary, rondo, ritornello, variations, ground bass, da capo, sonata, verse/chorus/middle-8, 32-bar, 12-bar blues
Melody
Phrase length, conjunct, disjunct/angular, fragmentary (this becomes more varied in the 20 th century), sequences, ornamentation.
Tonality
Modes, the development of the tonal system – major and minor, whole-tone, atonal, aleatory, modulation, related-keys, tertiary related keys, chromatic.
Harmony
Consonance and dissonance, chords, triads, inversions, cadences, functional harmony, chromatic harmony, quartal harmony, note-clusters, suspensions, preparation/resolution, extended chords, added-note chords, altered chords, chord progressions.
Composers
Purcell, JS Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Berlioz, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Liszt, Mahler, Bruckner, Elgar, Wagner, Debussy, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Berg, Webern, Stockhausen, Reich, Bernstein, Cage
Genres
Instrumental: Prelude and fugue, dance suite, trio sonata, sonata, symphony, string quartet, concerto, ballet suite, film Vocal: (sacred & secular) cantata, madrigal, mass, oratorio, opera (arias, recitative), lieder, 32-bar song, popular styles (rock, jazz, Motown etc)

Websites that might help:

<https://www.mydso.com/dso-kids/learn-and-listen/composers>

<http://www.columbia.edu/itc/music/ito/history/> (this has some suggested pieces of music but I don't think the links work so you will have to type them into youtube.)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfr97ty>

<https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/periods-genres/> (this also has extracts to listen to - or you could put the title into youtube to listen to the whole work.

There will be loads more!

These are all very worth watching but this would take quite a bit of time! (You probably have more time now than you ever will again though!

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=howard+goodall+story+of+music

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=howard+goodall+great+dates

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=howard+goodall+big+bangs

Listening diary:

I have given some links here but feel free to use your own choice of music – just make sure you cover a really broad spectrum of styles, genres and eras. Give the title (and composer if necessary) of each piece that you choose. You need to identify the key features of each piece, give an era/date of composition.

	Title and composer	Context
Example	Beethoven 7 th Symphony 4 th movement (finale)	Composed 1812 (early Romantic/late Classical) Played by full orchestra – fairly large orchestra. Pre-dates valves on brass instruments so few brass melodies. Percussion limited to timpani. Some independent melodies in woodwind. Not virtuosic. First symphony to include the marking 'fff' – extremely loud. Frequent dynamic contrasts, accented notes. Driving rhythms permeate the whole movement, fast tempo 2/4. Frequent dotted rhythms Major tonality, functional harmony with frequent perfect cadences. Mostly consonant harmony. Conjoint melodies with regular phrase lengths. Structure – one 4 note motif keeps returning. Texture – homophonic, some interplay between sections of instruments (antiphony).
Bach fugue		
Telemann trio sonata		
Beethoven violin sonata		
Haydn string quartet		
Bach Orchestral Suite		
Mozart symphony		
Mahler symphony		
Bach Concerto grosso		
Rachmaninov concerto		
Tchaikovsky Ballet		
Stravinsky Ballet		
Schoenberg		

<u>Bernard Hermann film music</u>		
<u>Bach Cantata</u>		
<u>Haydn mass</u>		
<u>Mozart opera</u>		
<u>Wagner opera</u>		
<u>Schubert lieder</u>		
<u>Jazz popular</u>		