

Attendance/Reading Quiz!

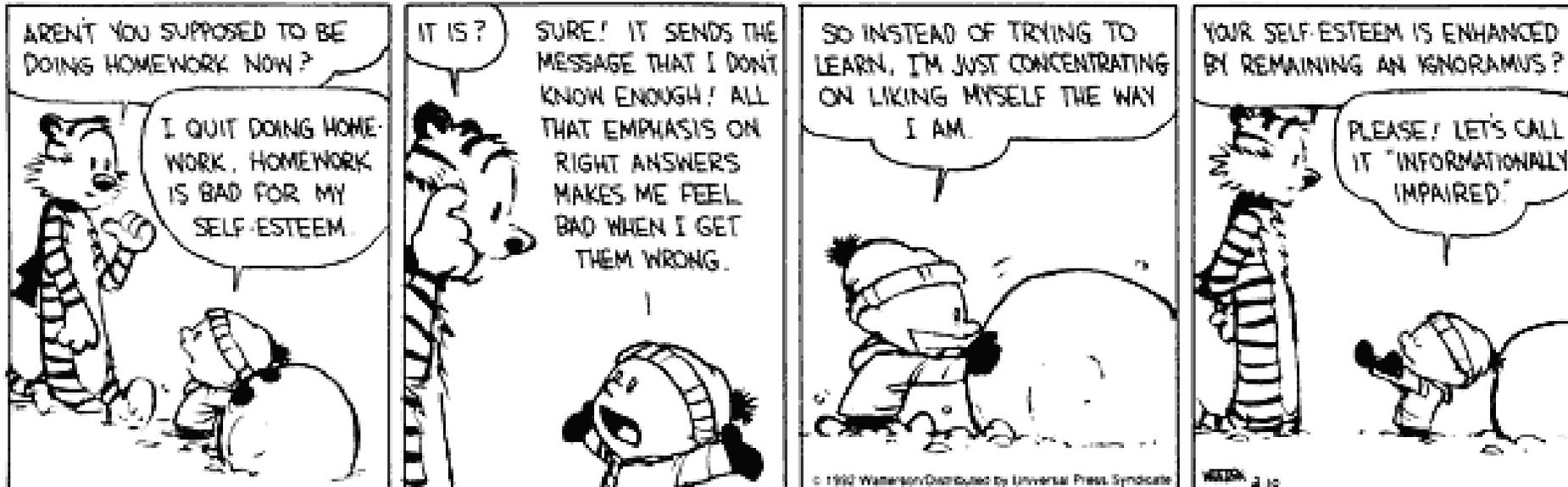
Mu 110: Introduction to Music

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

Queensborough Community College

Sections C5A (Fridays 9:10-12) and F5A (12:10-3)

Fall 2016



Recap

- Creative freedom is not absolute
 - Skill, desire, taste of audience, economic factors, availability of resources, government control
- Musicians make music in spite of and because of politics
 - Olivier Messaien, Dmitri Shostakovich
- Not all art is made for the purposes of self-expression

Follow-up questions

- Why does an artist have to write music that pleases the government or rulers?
 - Patronage system
 - Catholic Church – Perotin, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
 - Aristocracy and nobility – Jean-Baptiste Lully, Johann Sebastian Bach, Joseph Haydn
 - Totalitarian governments
 - USSR – Dmitri Shostakovich
 - America?
 - Un-American Activities Commission – publicly interrogating, berating, and punishing musicians who made un-American music

Follow-up questions

- How did government officials identify so-called rebellious music?
 - “[Music should resemble] symphonic sonorities or with the plain language of music that can be understood by all... [not] only appeal to aesthetes and formalists who have lost all healthy taste.” –*Pravda*, Jan. 28, 1936
 - Description of what music “should” sound like is so vague that they are 1) difficult to obey; and 2) can be manipulated against any composer
- I am unsure why musicians were sent to camps and what the Soviet government was proposing [The Great Terror or the Great Purge. Besides the musicians, why were others such as family members exiled?
 - 1) Because they expressed ideas that the government did not like;
 - 2) To punish people;
 - 3) To instill fear so that other people would obey.

John Cage (1912-92), 4'33 (1952)

John Cage (1912-92)



Cage in Japan, 1962

“To what end does one write music?” Music conditions one’s mind, leading to “moments in life that are complete and fulfilled.” (1948)

“Until I die there will be sounds. And they will continue following my death. One need not fear about the future of music.”

—after visiting an anechoic chamber at Harvard University, 1951

Musical sounds are not fixed

Ludwig van Beethoven,
Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major
“Eroica”, I. Allegro con brio (1804)

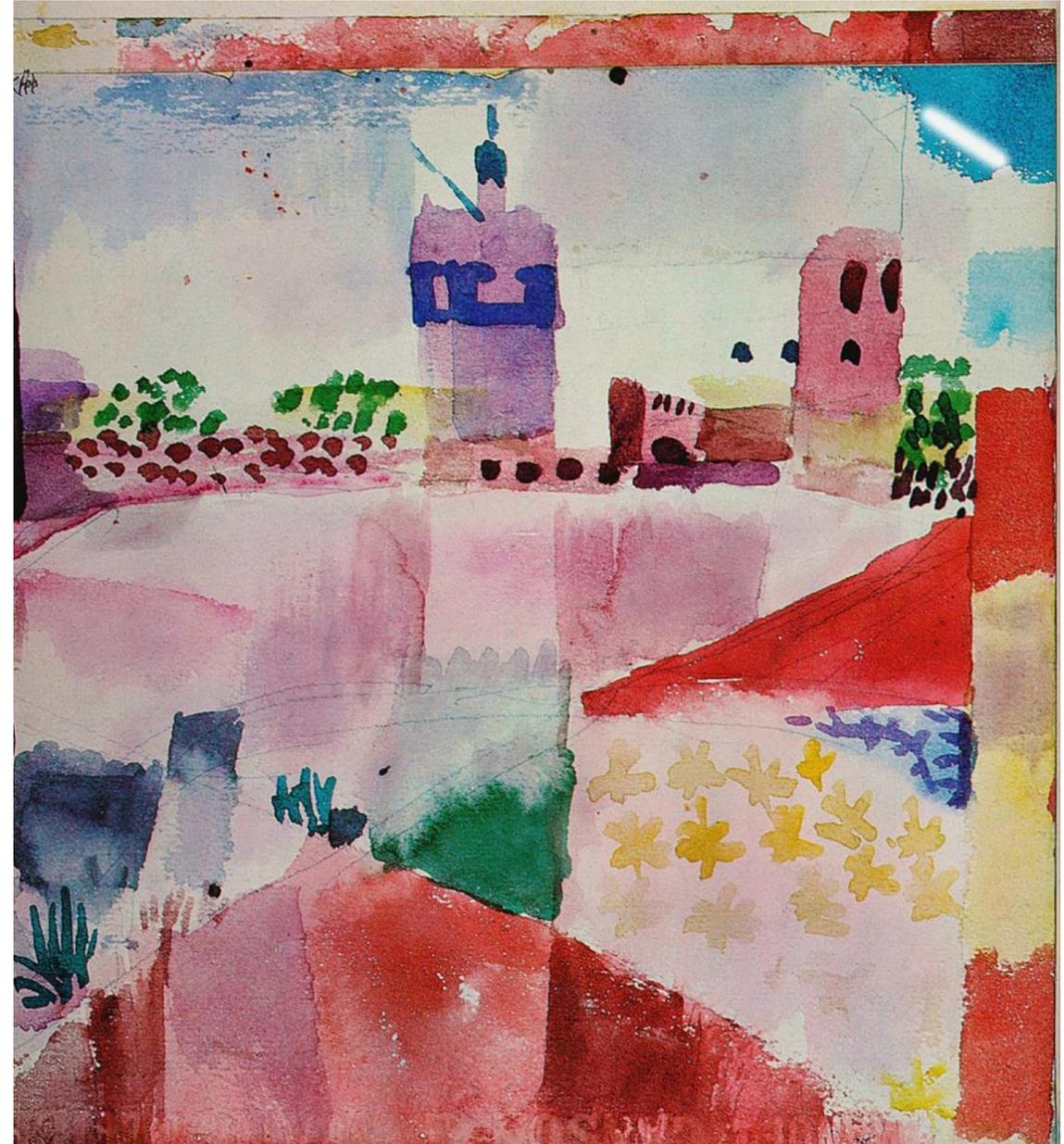


A chronological survey of the opening
chords of Beethoven's Eroica Symphony

Minimalism in visual art

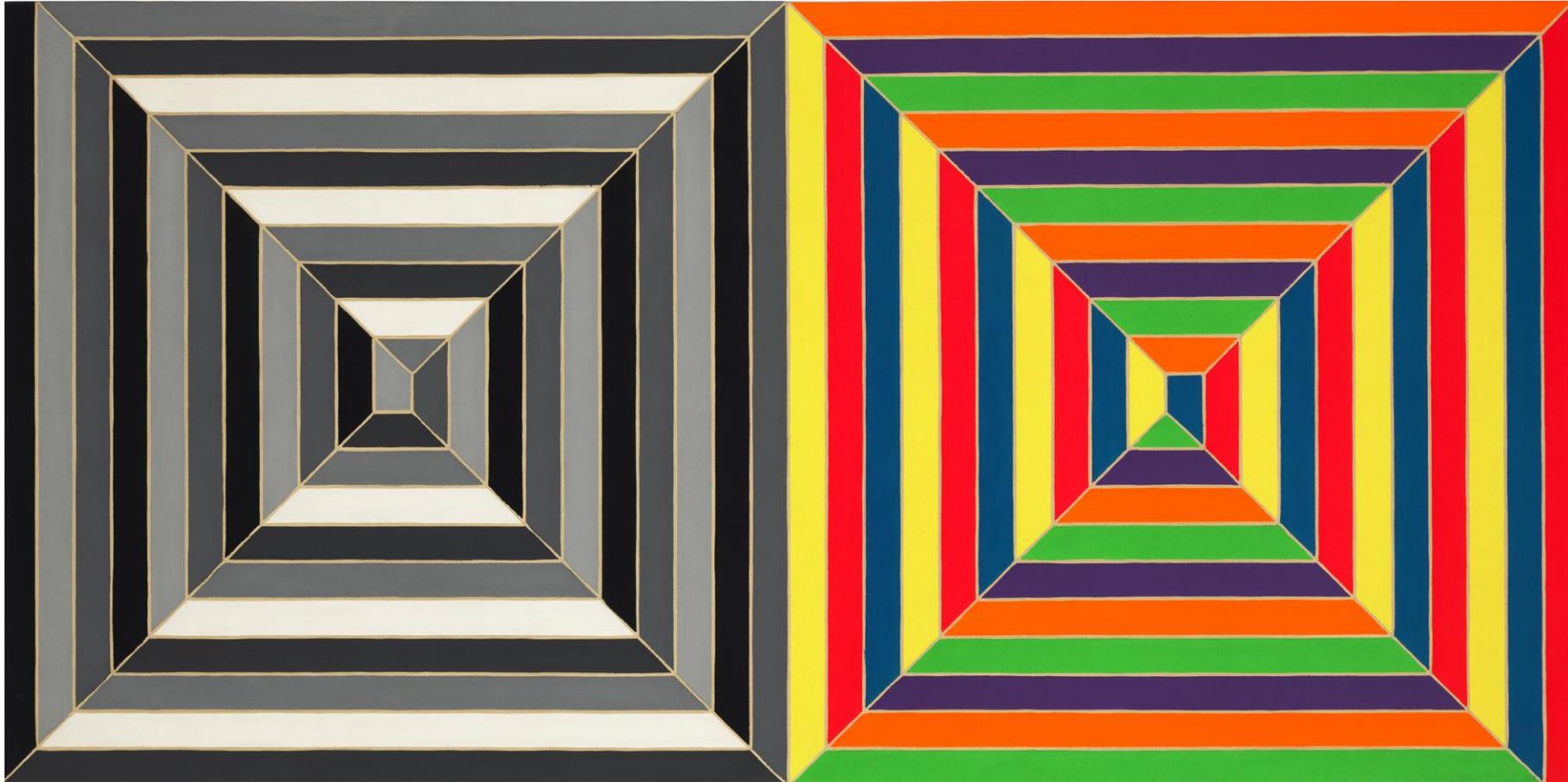


Hammamet,
Tunisia



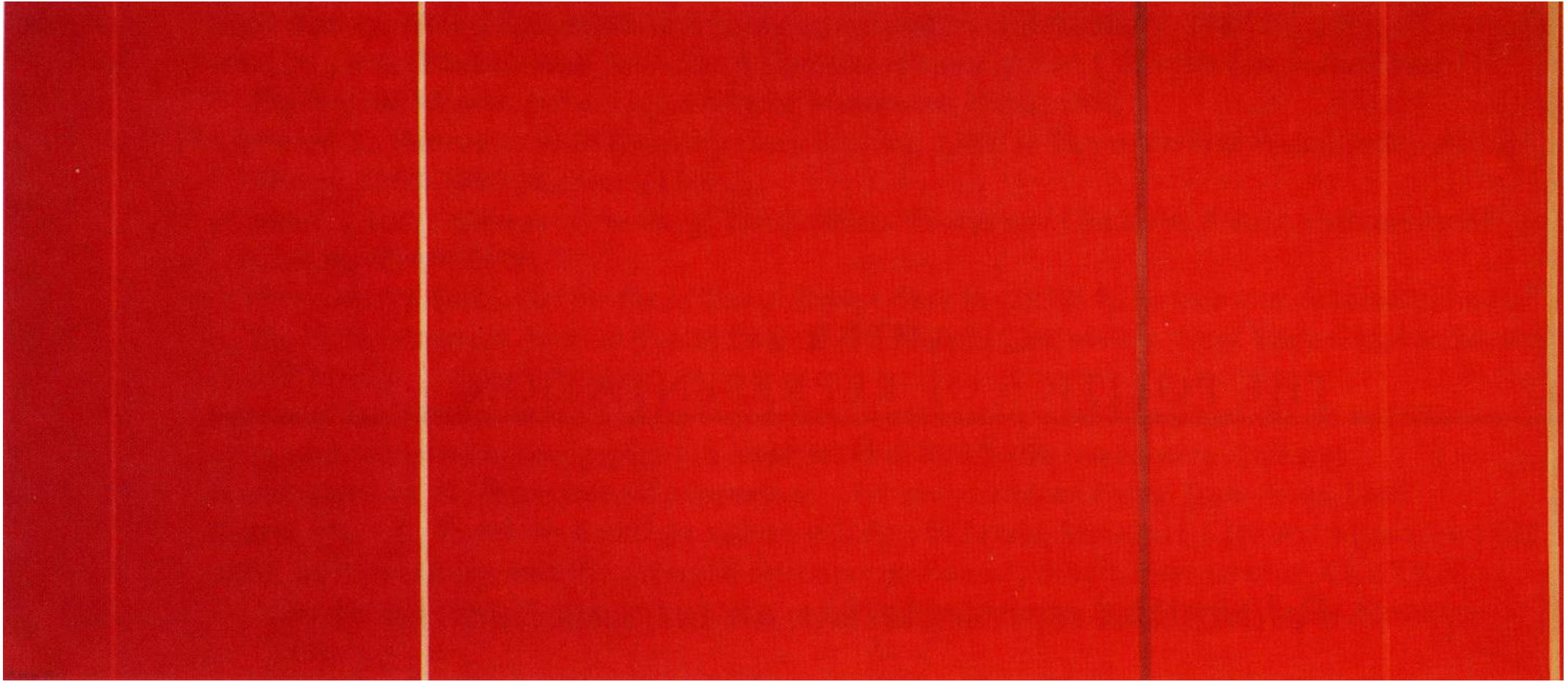
Paul Klee (1879-1940),
*Hammamet with its
Mosque* (1914)

Minimalism in visual art



Frank Stella (b. 1936), *Untitled* (1966)

Minimalism in visual art



Barnett Newman (1905-70), *Vir Heroicus Sublimis* (1951)

Minimalism in visual art



Kerry James Marshall (b. 1955), *Red (If They Come in the Morning)* (2011)

Listening comparison

- Johannes Brahms, String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51 No. 2 (1873)
- Philip Glass, String Quartet No. 2 “Company”, I. (1983)
- Philip Glass, String Quartet No. 5, III. (1991)



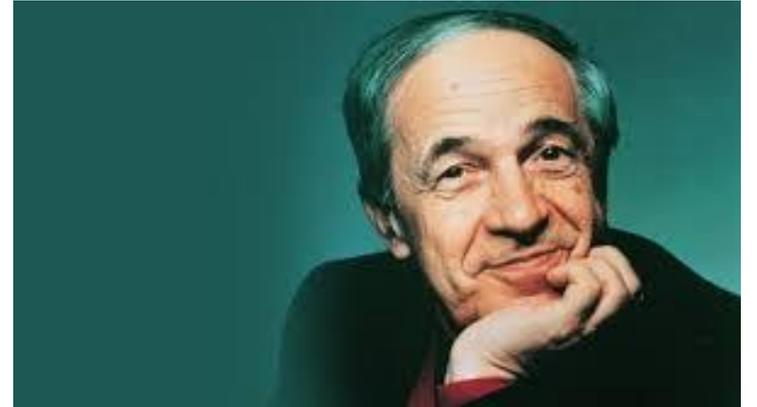
Johannes Brahms (1833-97)



Philip Glass (b. 1937)

Minimalism

- Term was intended as an insult
 - Pierre Boulez (1925-2016): it is music “of minimal interest”
- Anton Webern (1883-1945), String Quartet, Op. 28 (1937-38)



Steve Reich (b. 1936), *Clapping Music* (1972) and *Drumming*, part I (1970-1)

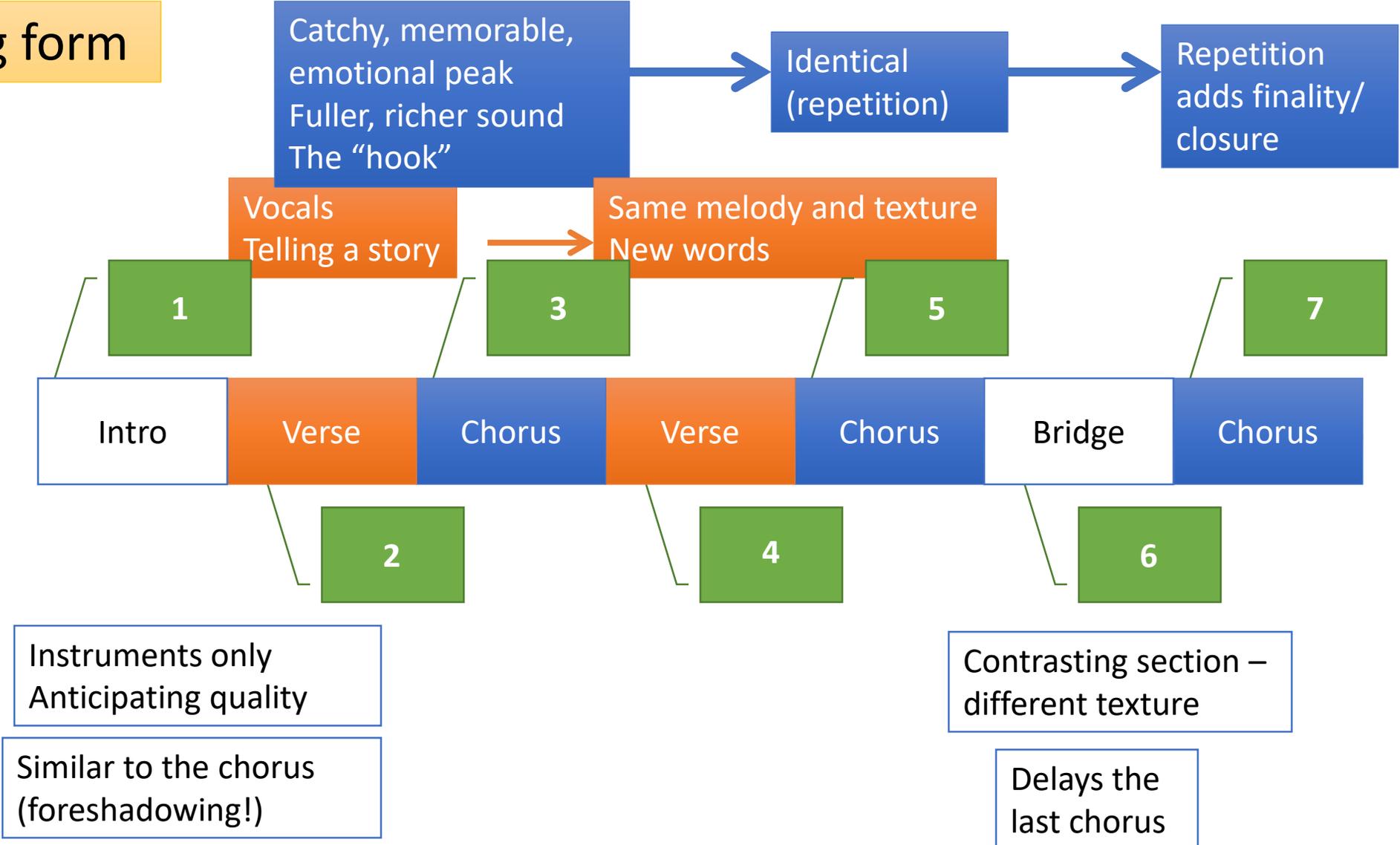
- Phasing – playing the same rhythmic figure slightly out of time (out of phase) with another musician
- 4 sets of tuned bongos (8 drums, 4 players)
- The composer provides a template for how the piece should unfold, not specific commands for the execution of every single note
 - Improvisation – each player takes a turn at a solo



Frederic Rzewski (b.1938), *Coming Together*,
Part I (1971)

Form: noticing changes in musical sounds

Pop song form



Homework and reminders

- Student Blog Post #12 ends Saturday night
- Student Blog Post #13 (F5A only) – November 27-30
- Online Class Discussion #7, November 20-26
- Blog Response Essay due December 2
- Have a great, safe, delicious holiday!



End quiz

1. “Minimalism” refers to music that is always quiet, spare, and short in length.
 - a) True
 - b) False
2. Composers control every aspect of how a piece of music sounds.
 - a) True
 - b) False
3. What musical features can you listen for to figure out the form of a piece of music?