

Attendance/Reading Quiz!

# Mu 110: Introduction to Music

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

Queensborough Community College

Spring 2017

Sections F1 (Mondays 12:10-3) and F4 (Thursdays 12:10-3)

THIS IS THE FINEST  
SNOWBALL EVER MADE!



PAINSTAKINGLY HAND-  
CRAFTED INTO A PERFECT  
SPHERE FROM A SECRET  
MIXTURE OF SLUSH, ICE,  
DIRT, DEBRIS AND FINE  
POWDER SNOW, THIS /S  
THE ULTIMATE WINTER WEAPON!



YES, THIS MARVEL OF  
CRYSTALLINE ENGINEERING WI...



ANOTHER CASUALTY  
OF THE SEDUCTION  
OF ART.



# Recap from last week

- What is music?
- Melody (most prominent line)
  - Cadences, contour
- Texture (context or interaction of parts)
- Form (musical structure)
  - We notice form when we notice that multiple musical features are changing simultaneously (our listening experience changes)
- Tricky quiz question: 3. Name one way that melodic contour can convey an emotion or attitude.
- The writing process
  - A BIG question
  - Multiple angles
  - Support definition with specific examples

# Definition vs. example

Music is profitable in the sense that it is used to earn a living by many artists.

Music is a story. Some music doesn't have words or a singer at all, but that doesn't mean it doesn't still tell a story. A beat or instruments rise or fall in a certain way that makes your palms sweat or your heart beat faster.

Music is a form of creative outlet because when I turn it on, my mind begins to spin. It gives me the means to create poetry from different songs I listen to.

Music is propaganda because if it is heard long enough and consistently enough people will believe it as truth. Hitler had composers write pieces that would make people think that being a Nazi and going to war is good.

# In-class writing and debate: music and self-expression



# Rhythm and meter

Listen for changes in the bass (lowest parts) + accents in the melody + events in the percussion = meter

- Rhythm is closely related to physical movement
  - Tapping, clapping, snapping, or dancing
- Duration = length of individual notes
- Organizing musical time
  - Meter – the regular groupings of strong and weak pulses
  - A measure contains a strong beat followed by weak beat(s)
- The beat (pulse) is like the heartbeat of a piece – steady, ongoing, unique for every piece
  - Groove (meter) – predictable rhythmic repetition of strong and weak beats
  - Not every beat is equal in terms of weight (accent)
- Duple (quadruple) meter = Strong-weak, strong-weak
- Triple meter = Strong-weak-weak, strong-weak-weak

# Rhythm: duple or triple meter?

Listen for changes in the bass (lowest parts) + accents in the melody + events in the percussion = meter



The Village People, *Y.M.C.A.* (1978)



Michael Jackson, *Billie Jean* (1983)



Jimi Hendrix, *Hey Joe* (1966)



John Philip Sousa, *Stars and Stripes Forever* March (1896)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, III. Menuetto (1787)



# Rhythm: playing with expectations

- Meter can change
- Syncopation – accented notes occurring in between stronger beats, deliberate upsetting of the meter
  - Playing “against” the beat
  - Lively and temporarily unsettling quality
  - Rhythmic interest and vitality

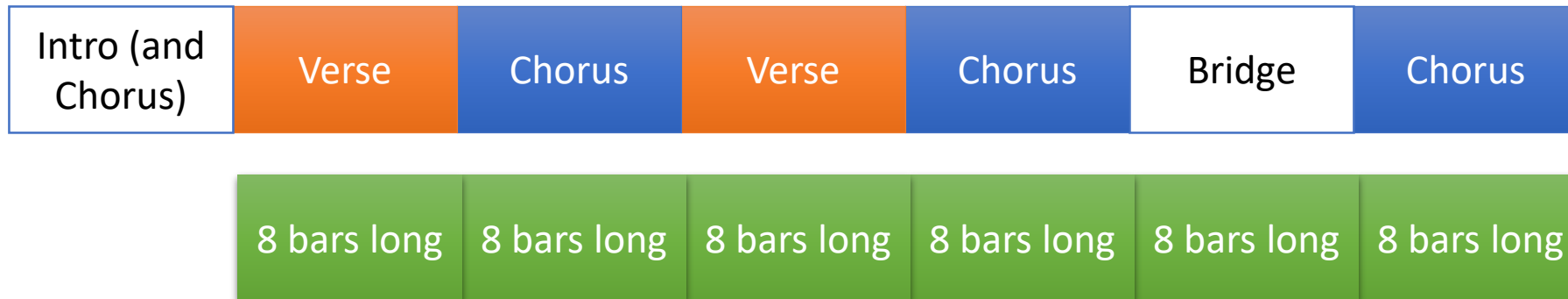


Band of Horses, *I Go to the Barn Because I Like the* (2006)



Dave Brubeck Quartet, *Unsquare Dance* (1961)

# Music sets up expectations



# French court dance music

- Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-87), Gavotte from *Atys* (1676)
- What makes this music good to dance to? What makes it good for entertainment?



# Music in the French royal court at Versailles

- King Louis XIV (r. 1643-1715)
- King Louis XV (r. 1715-74)
- Versailles
  - *Château* (palace)
  - Home of the French royal family, 1682-1789
- Employed 120 musicians
- Music for dancing, concerts, balls, eating, and waking up



King Louis XIV of France, portrait  
by Hyacinthe Rigaud, 1701

# Music in the French royal court at Versailles

- Audiences for court events were often foreign dignitaries (princes, ambassadors)
- German noblemen hired French musicians as performers and teachers and composers'
- French was considered the most sophisticated language and culture in the Baroque era



“Nothing marks the greatness of princes better than the buildings that compel the people to look on them with awe, and all posterity judges them by the superb palaces they have built during their lifetime.”

—Jean-Baptiste Colbert (1619-83), minister of finance to Louis XIV

# Fashion: from the French court



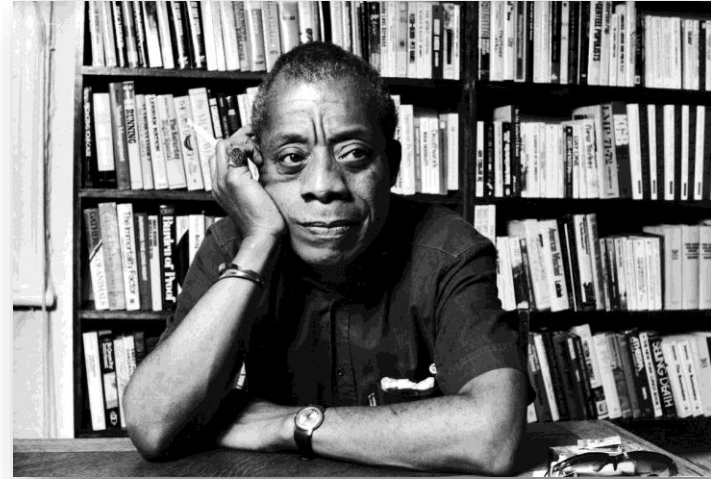
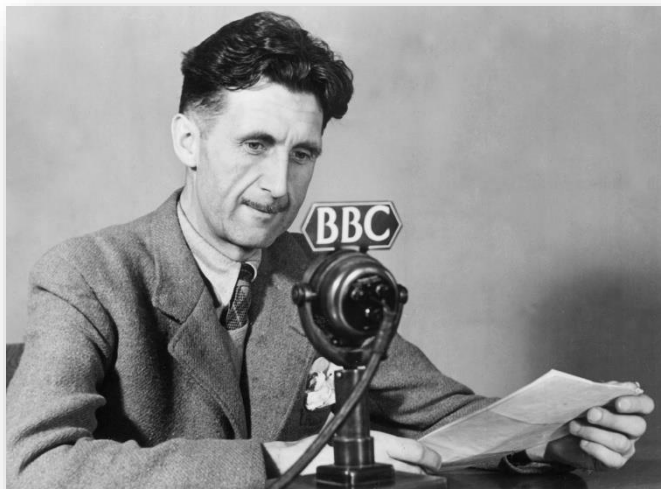
- (Red) high heels and culottes
  - King Louis XIV was an excellent dancer and had well-defined calf muscles which he liked to show off
  - Looking taller
- Wigs
  - Lice control
  - Louis XIII (r. 1610-43) went prematurely bald
  - Physical grandeur and expense

King Louis XIV of France dressed as Apollo, 1653

# Telling stories

“Who controls the past  
controls the future. Who  
controls the present controls  
the past.”

—George Orwell (1903-50),  
*1984* (1949)



“The great force of history comes from  
the fact that we carry it within us, are  
unconsciously controlled by it in many  
ways, and history is literally present in all  
that we do.”

—James Baldwin (1924-87),  
*The Price of the Ticket: Collected  
Nonfiction 1948-1985*

# Telling Stories – questions to ask yourself



Judith Leyster, *Boy Playing the Flute* (1660)

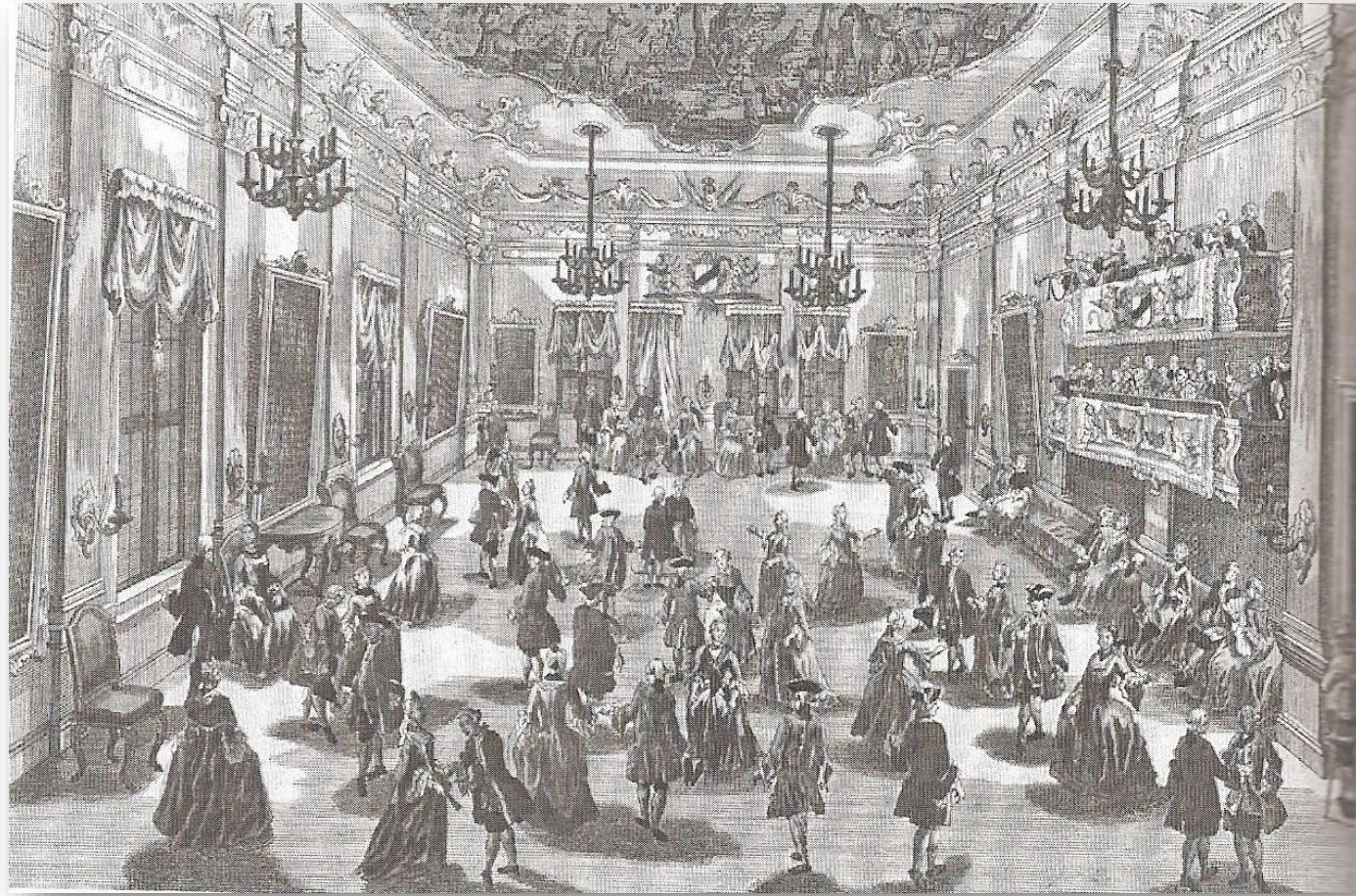
- Who is in power?
  - What is the author's relationship to that power? Why is this story being told and not another one?
- What historical forces are influencing this telling of history?
  - What long-term changes or forces are at play that we know about but the author might not see or articulate?
- What/who is left out of this depiction?
  - What perspectives are missing?

# Dancing at the court of Versailles



Dance ensemble at Versailles, 1696 by Antoine Trouvain

# Dancing at balls



Dance ball in Augsburg, Bavaria, 1750, by G.B. Probst

# Joseph Haydn, Symphony No. 46 in B Major, III. Menuet (1772)



- Symphonies usually have four movements, each with a distinct mood, tempo, meter, and melodies:
  1. Sonata-allegro
  2. Slow movement
  3. Minuet (or scherzo)
  4. Finale (usually a rondo)
- The minuet was a popular court dance in the Baroque period (1600-1750)

# Formal writing: Course Intro Essay

- A prompt is just that: a thing that *prompts* you to think about a topic and take it in a new direction.
- First draft due February 27

# Homework and reminders

- Weekly reading is available on the website
  - Forms used in classical music
  - The Classical Period
- Online Discussion #2 this week (ends Sunday)
- Online Discussion #3, February 20-26
- Optional extra credit concert February 23 at 12:30
- Course Intro Essay first draft due Monday, February 27
- Have a great weekend!



# End quiz

1. Dancing was an important social activity for members of the Baroque aristocracy.
  - a) True
  - b) False
2. If you want to figure out the meter of a piece, which musical features should you listen for?
  - a) Bass
  - b) Percussion
  - c) Accents in the melody
  - d) All of the above
3. Name one way music **is not** an effective means of self-expression.
4. Name one way music **is** an effective means of self-expression.