Attendance/Reading Quiz!

Mu 101: Introduction to Music

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

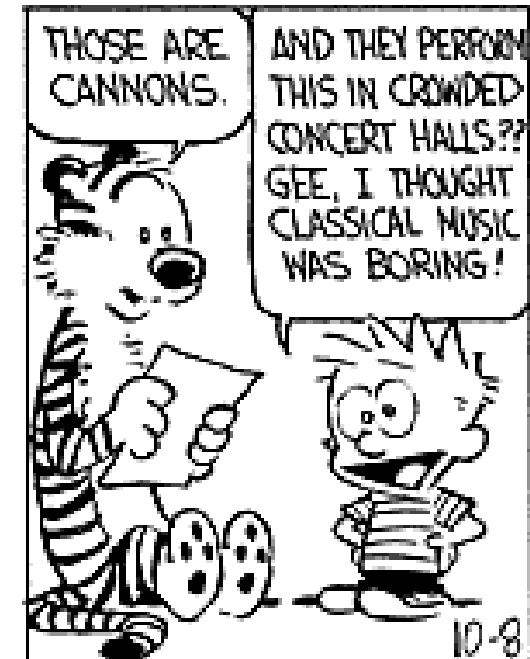Queensborough Community College

Fall 2018

Sections F2 (T 12:10-3) and J2 (3:10-6)

Reading quiz

Religion was the most important basis of European beliefs, governance, and music in the late-18th century.

a) True

b) False

Reading quiz

Which of the following are common features of Classical era music? Circle all that apply.

a) Dense, polyphonic textures

b) Elegant, singing melodies

c) Regular meters and steady tempos

d) Two- and four-bar phrases

e) Strange, dissonant chords or harmonies

Reading quiz

Originality was considered more important than skill for Classical era composers.

a) True

b) False

Reading quiz

Before doing the assigned reading for today, how did you think a member of an orchestra got their job?

What was something that surprised or interested you about the process of getting an orchestra job?

Recap

- Iconography
- Form
  - Structure of music
  - Repetition, variation, contrast
  - Forms we listened to: binary, ternary, pop song form
- Analysis = description + "so what"
- Good writing
  - Expresses an opinion that is both interesting and stated clearly
  - Supports that opinion up with details someone else can verify
  - Vivid details (like your soundscape journal)

What is a symphony?

- Symphony is a genre of music
  - Genre = style + function

I. **Sonata-allegro**

- Multi-movement work for orchestra heard in a concert hall that developed during the Classical era

II. **Slow movement**

III. **Minuet**

  - Composers still write symphonies today

IV. **Rondo**

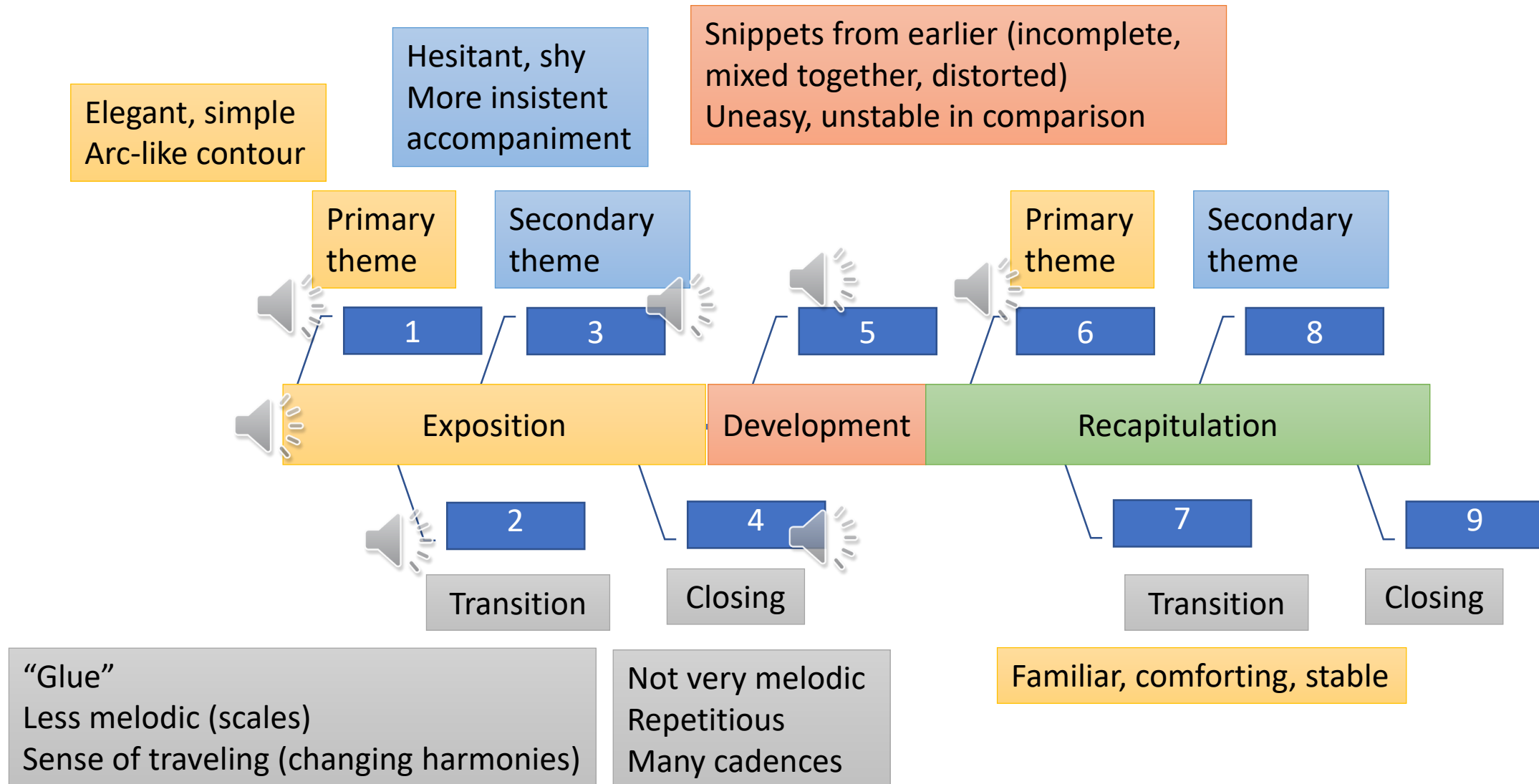- Orchestra: standard mix of strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments

Form: sonata form

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Piano Sonata in C Major, I. Allegro K.545 (1788)

Snippets from earlier (incomplete, mixed together, distorted)
Uneasy, unstable in comparison

Hesitant, shy
More insistent accompaniment

Elegant, simple
Arc-like contour

Primary theme

Secondary theme

Primary theme

Secondary theme

1

3

5

6

8

Exposition

Development

Recapitulation

2

4

7

9

Transition

Closing

Transition

Closing

"Glue"
Less melodic (scales)
Sense of traveling (changing harmonies)

Not very melodic
Repetitious
Many cadences

Familiar, comforting, stable

Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67, I. Allegro con brio (1808)

Exposition

Exposition (second time)

Development

Recapitulation

Coda

3

1

5

7

9

11

(1770-1827)

| P | T | S | C | P | T | S | C | From P and T | P | T | S | C | "P" |

2

6

8

4

10
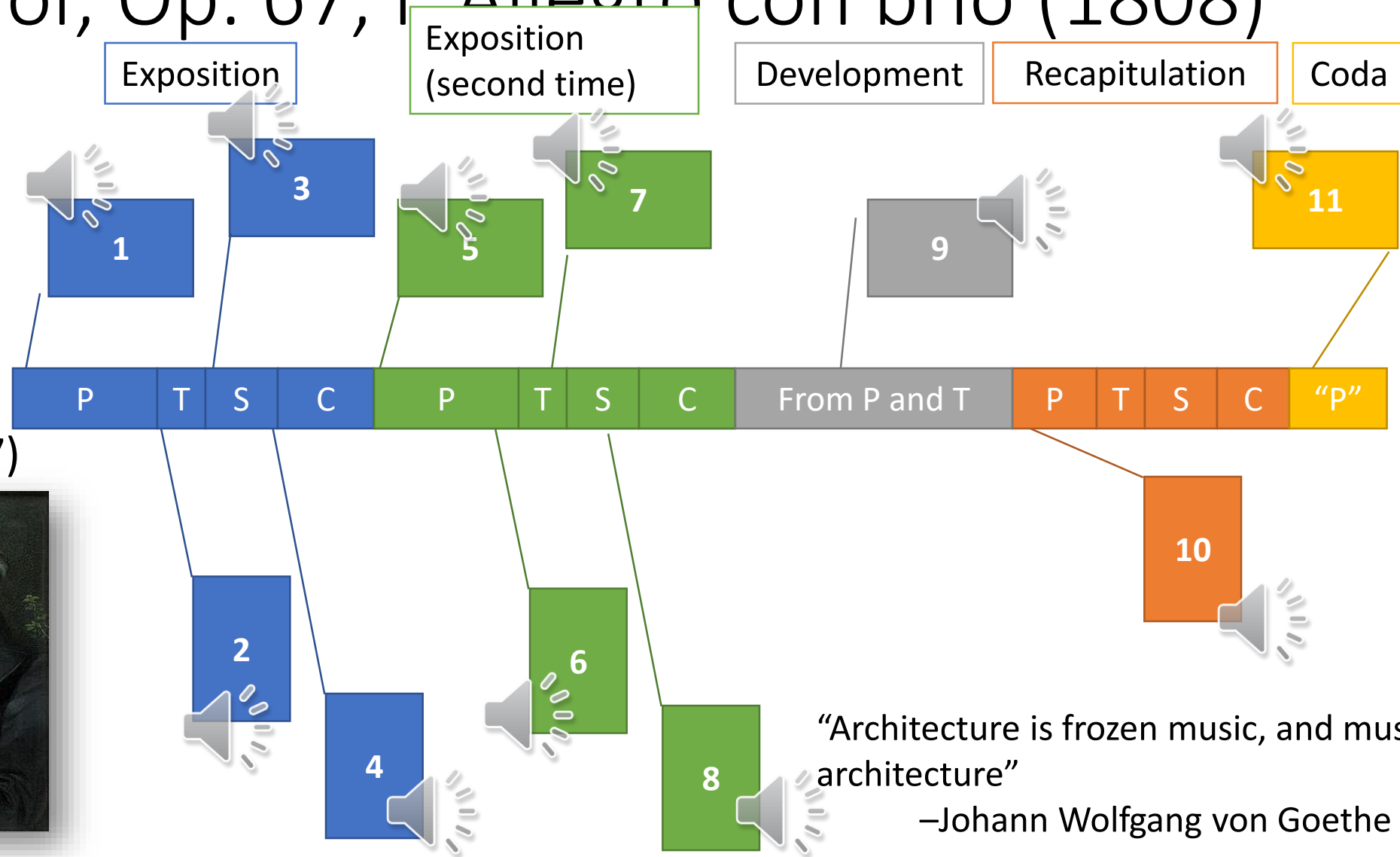
"Architecture is frozen music, and music is flowing architecture"
    –Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

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

(1732-1809)

- 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)

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

Menuet

| A | A | B | B | A |

Melody with many pauses (cadences), major key

New melody, smoothly connected notes, major key

Trio

| C | D | B |

New melody with less rhythmic activity, minor key, *piano* dynamic level with sudden loud notes

New melody, different instrumentation, minor, *piano*

Menuet da capo

| A | A | B | A |

Performance art

- Often interdisciplinary
  - Combines skills and expressivity of multiple kinds of art making simultaneously
  - Film, dance, music, painting
- Challenges conventions or norms
  - Not meant to be "safe"
  - Unfamiliar or experimental sounds, gestures, or presentation (use of space, audience interaction)

Marina Abramovic and Ulay, "Rest Energy" (1980)

Harmony

- Adds color, taste, or motion to a melody

- The notes included in a piece, section of a piece, or a chord are determined by a scale
  - Scale – a series of notes that define a key
  - Key – all the notes in key revolve around a central pitch (note)
- Scales in Western classical music are usually major or minor
- Example:
  - Beethoven, Symphony No. 5 in C Minor
  - Mozart, Piano Concerto in G Major

Joseph Haydn, Symphony No. 100, "Military," II. Allegretto (1794)

Harmony: active and rest chords

- Consonance: Intervals that sound pleasant together
  - i.e. "the harmony is consonant"
  - Calmer, more relaxing, more stable
- Dissonance: Intervals that clash with each other produce dissonances
  - i.e. "the harmony is dissonant"
  - Instability
  - Needs resolution (relief)

- Chords provide a sense of motion and return
- This "traveling" creates musical space
- Rest chords – points of cadence
  - Calmer, more stable, more consonant
- Active chords – more tension and energy
  - More dissonant

| Active chord | → "resolution" → | Rest chord |

Harmony: active and rest chords in a major key

- Chords provide a sense of motion and return
- This "traveling" creates musical space
- Major keys often have a bright quality
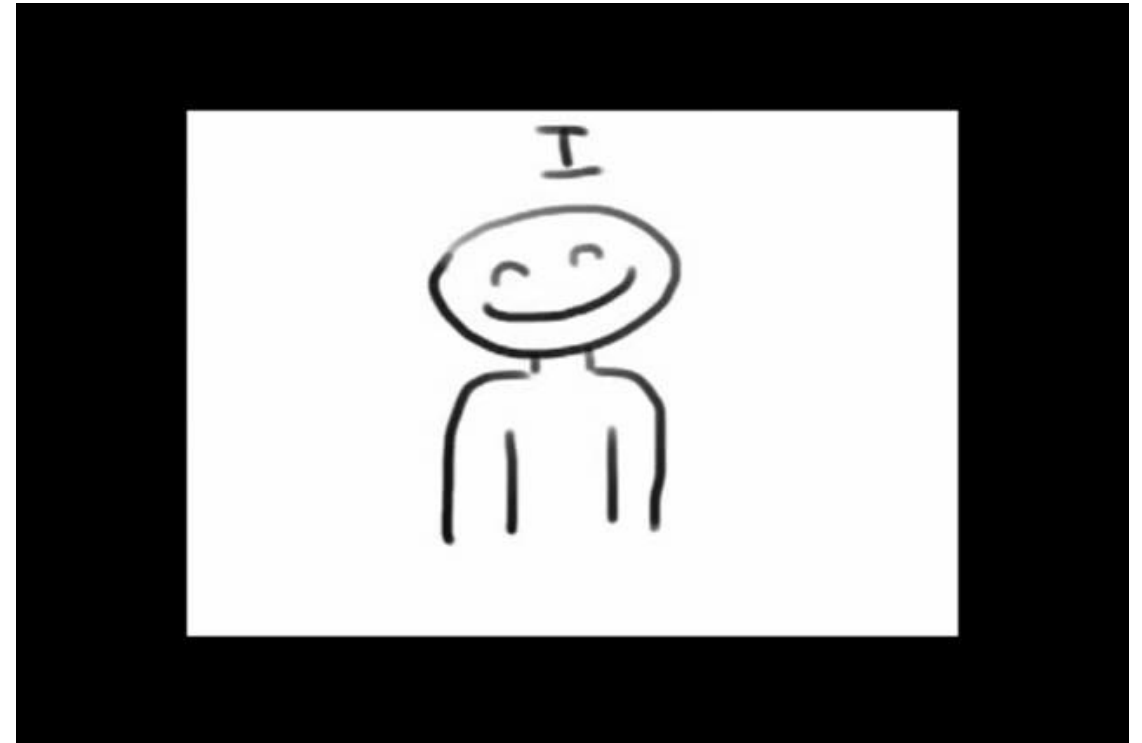
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91), Sonata No. 16 in C Major, I. Allegro, K.545 (1788)

Describing texture: style of playing

- *Legato* or slurred
  - Notes are played in a smooth and connected manner rather than separated
  - The notes "touch" each other
- *Staccato* – short, detached notes (all instruments, voices)
- *Pizzicato* – plucking technique used by string instruments only

Claude Debussy, *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* (1894)

Niccolò Paganini, *Moto perpetuo*, Op. 11 (1835), played by James Galway, flute

Describing texture: style of playing

Béla Bartók, String Quartet No. 4, IV. Allegro pizzicato (1928), played by the Amadeus Quartet

French court dance music

- Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-87), Gavotte from *Atys* (1676)

Rondo form (ABAC....A)

Bouncy, mostly small intervals (steps) Major harmonies *Piano*	Smooth, some large intervals (leaps) Major harmonies *Forte*	Bouncy, mostly small intervals (steps) Major harmonies *Piano*	Smooth, mostly small intervals (steps) Minor harmonies *Forte*	Bouncy, mostly small intervals (steps) Major harmonies *Piano* and *pianissimo*
A	B	A	C	A

Reminders and homework

- The current Online Discussion (Sound Migration) ends Sunday, Oct 14
  - Meaningful conversation = (1) Respond to the content of the post; (2) Pose questions your classmates can answer; (3) Respond to your classmates' ideas
  - Use the writing tip from your email today
- Next online discussion: Music and gender, Oct 15-21
- Next class: Articles roundtable #1
  - You'll receive your assigned article in an email tonight
  - Other assigned reading: religion and religious music in Europe
- Analysis #1 drafts will be returned to you in class on October 16
  - We'll go over how to post materials to the section website (Peer Critique, Oct 22-28)
  - Final draft due in class on October 23 (first draft + final draft + process letter)
- Have a great weekend!

End quiz: Listening for musical details

1. Instruments – Name 3 instruments you hear playing this piece.

2. Texture – Monophonic, homorhythmic, polyphonic, or no texture?

3. Dynamics – Mostly piano or mostly forte?

4. Style of playing – Mostly legato, staccato, or pizzicato?

5. Meter – Non-metric, duple or triple?

Bonus: Make an inference or educated guess about this piece of music (e.g., time period, genre, reason for composition, performance practice, etc.).