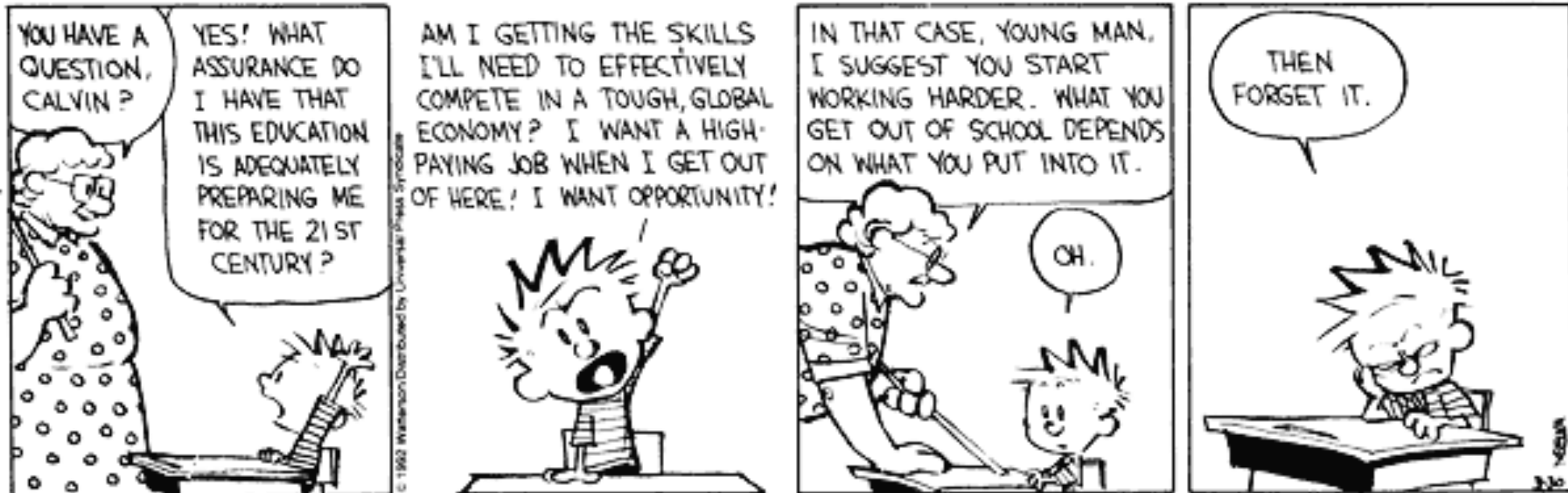# Mu 101: Introduction to Music

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

Queensborough Community College

Spring 2019

Sections C3 (W 9:10-12). C5 (F 9:10-12). F5 (F 12:10-3)

Recap

- The Classical period
- Sonata form
- String quartet
- Symphony

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

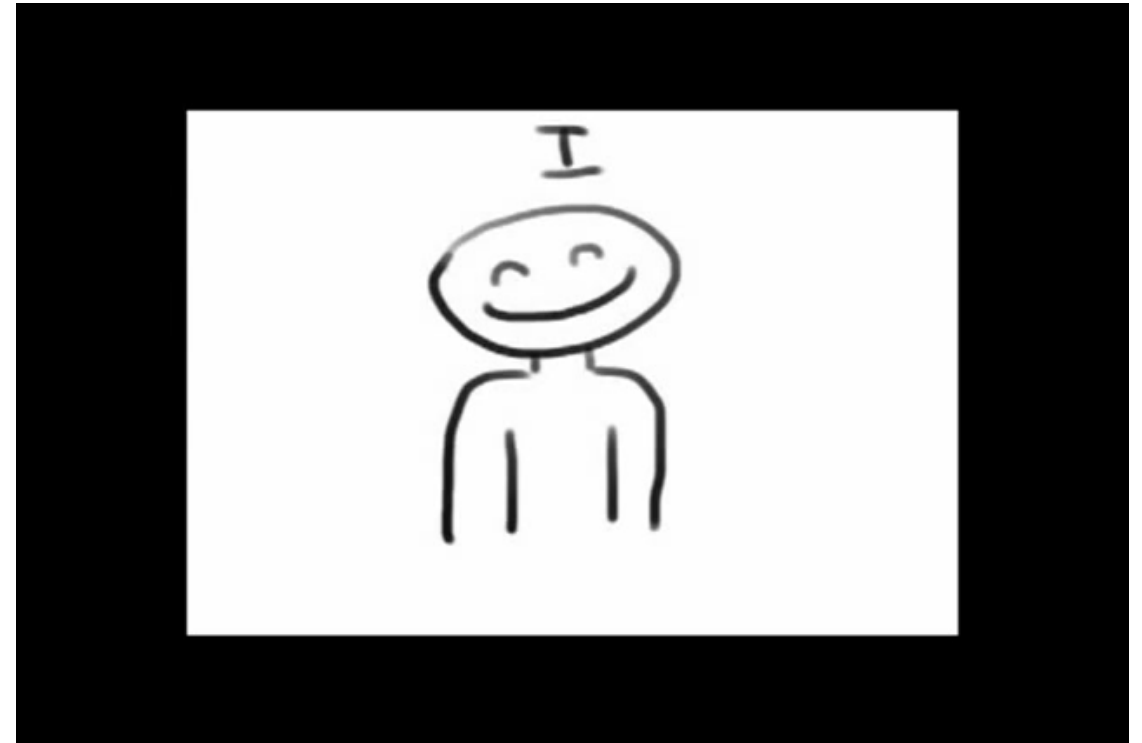Joseph Haydn, Symphony No. 100, "Military," II. Allegretto (1794)

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)

Attitudes about music

18th century (Classical)

19th century (Romantic)

In order for something to be called "art", it must be "beautiful"
—Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, 1790

"Music is the most romantic of all the arts. Music unlocks for man an unfamiliar world having nothing in common with the external world that surrounds him."
–ETA Hoffmann, review of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 (1810)

Music is a "holy mystery."
–Wilhelm Wachenroder (1790s)

The music people make is a product of the way people think AND the way people think is a product of the music they listen to.

Franz Schubert (1797-1828), *Der Erlkönig* (1815)

- Text: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

- Singer plays multiple roles in a dramatic plot
  - Narrator, son, father, devil

- Supernatural folktale

- What is the role of the piano?

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (1925-2012), baritone
Gerald Moore (1899-1987), piano

Moritz von Schwind (1804-71), *The Elfking* (c.1860)

The middle class of the 19th century

- 15-20% of Western Europe

- Music making at home

- The piano became larger and more powerful because of the Industrial Revolution
  - The favorite instrument of people making music at home. It can play many melodies and accompaniments at the same time
  - A favorite instrument of virtuosos
  - Status symbol in the home

Achille Devéria (1800-57) – *In the Salon*

Bildung

- *Bildung* – lifelong project of self-cultivation through literature, poetry, and art
  - Practiced by members of the middle class in Germany and Austria
- *Bildung* circle
- Schubertiad

Mortiz von Schwind (1804-71), *Schubertiade* (1868)

Franz Schubert (1797-182[)

Lied (plural: Lieder)
- Song in German for voice and piano
- Lyrical or dramatic poetic text
- The composer draws out the meaning of every word through texture, form, harmony, and the piano accompaniment

Oeuvre

- 600 Lieder

- 9 symphonies

- Chamber music
  - 21 piano sonatas
  - 400 dances, waltzes, etc. for piano
  - 15 string quartets

"I am in the world for the purpose of composing. What I feel in my heart, I give to the world." —Franz Schubert

Homework and reminders

- The current Online Discussion (Instruments and voice types) ends Sunday, Mar 3
  - Grading based on this week's writing tip (see email)
- Next week: Peer critique #1 (Mar 4-10)
  - Your paragraph from either Reflection #1 or Reflection #2 is due online by 11:59pm on Saturday, March 2
- No assigned reading for next week (F Mar 8 / W Mar 13)
  - Midterm exam
  - Reflection #3 is due
- Have a great week!