

New to class? Pick up a syllabus and info sheet



Mu 101: Introduction to Music

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

Queensborough Community College, Spring 2020

Sections M1 (Mondays 6:10-9), C3A (Wednesdays 9:10-12), H3A
(Wednesdays 2:10-5)



FOR EXAMPLE, RIGHT NOW,
INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR THE
SCHOOL BUS, I COULD STICK
OUT MY THUMB, HITCH A RIDE,
AND SPEND THE REST OF MY
LIFE IN THE SERENGETI,
MIGRATING WITH THE
WILDEBEESTS!



Reading follow-up

Musical sounds mean the same thing all around the world.

- a) True
- b) False

Reading follow-up

Culture is something that is learned.

- a) True
- b) False

Reading follow-up

What is melodic motion?

- a) How fast or slow the melody moves
- b) How high or low range of the melody is
- c) How melody interacts with the accompaniment
- d) The way the melody moves from note to note

Reading follow-up

The word “forte” refers to a passage of music that sounds quiet.

- a) True
- b) False

Recap

- Online discussion #1 / Community Asks
- Soundscape
- Texture = all the parts of a piece of music interacting simultaneously
- Stereotypes about music
- Why don't we all hear in the same way?

Online discussion requirements: Make 3 different kinds of posts in each conversation

- Add: Add your own ideas to the conversation, take issue with a claim made by the post's author, and/or share a link to another article/book/blog that the discussion reminds you of (with contextual commentary from you) that adds new depth to the conversation
- Respond to questions posed by the blog post/author/another participant and/or take issue with a claim made by another participant
- Ask an open-ended question (not yes/no)

Online discussion notes

- ***Do not try to answer all of the questions I've posed.*** Focus on the ones that you have a strong reaction to, and learn from other people's comments that address the other questions. Leave space for others to move the conversation along. There is no prize for trying to do it all yourself.
- **Limit each of your comments to addressing a single question or topic.** By doing so, you make it easier for others to see your point quickly and easily, rather than letting your good idea get lost in the middle of a long, multi-topic post. If you have several different ideas you want to share, make several different comments. Let each idea speak for itself.

Recap

- Online discussion #1 / Community Asks
- Soundscape
 - Constantly changing and is full of details we can notice and think about
 - We may be less observant than we thought, but we can all learn to become more observant than we already are
- Texture = all the parts of a piece of music interacting simultaneously
 - Different textures = different listening experiences
- Stereotypes about music
 - Reveal our values, how we listen, and how we think about the world in which we live
 - Associating classical music with upper classes, education, or constraint (i.e., sounds that are boring) is something we've *learned* (and passed down) culturally over a long period of time
- Why don't we all hear in the same way?
 - These same reasons affect how different people make music in different ways, too

Listening for differences and details



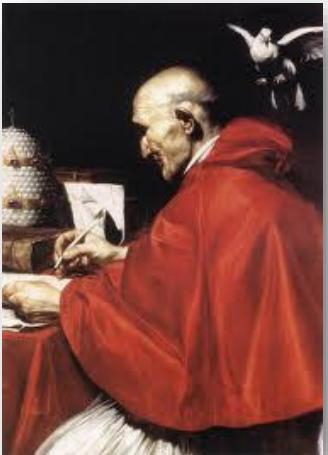
Ke\$ha, *We R Who We R* (2010)



The Weeknd, *The Hills* (2015)



Franz Schubert, *Die Forelle* (1817)



Anonymous, *Kyrie eleison*



Orlando di Lasso, *Kyrie eleison* from *Missa Bell' Amfitriti, altera* (1610)



Simon and Garfunkel, *Scarborough Fair* (1966)

Listening for differences and details



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Duets for Flute and Oboe, “Der Volgelfanger bin ich ja” (1791)



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, I. Allegro (1787)



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



Lil Wayne and Drake, *Right Above It* (2010)



Philip Glass, *Einstein on the Beach*, “Knee-Play 1” (1975)

Elements of music

Melody

Rhythm

Harmony

Texture

Form

Dynamics

Tempo

Present in all musics of the world:
pop, classical, folk musics

“Style” refers to how they are
used

My three goals for your writing in Mu 101

- **That you improve as a writer.** This may mean that you improve your skills, that you increase your confidence, or that you learn to write in new styles and new ways.
- **That you have an epiphany.** I want to you have a joyful, putting-the-pieces-together, “aha!” moment about something as a direct result of what you do this course.
- **That you do something I could not have anticipated.** I cannot know what this is, and that excites me about this process.

Good writing: The power of nouns and the first paragraph

- Amanda Mull, “I Gooped Myself” (*The Atlantic*, 26 Aug 2019)
- David Foster Wallace, “A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again” (*Harper’s Magazine*, Jan 1996)

Effective writing: Word choice

I have smelled what suntan lotion smells like spread over 21,000 pounds of hot flesh.

I have smelled what suntan lotion smells like spread over 21,000 pounds of hot skin.

I have smelled suntan lotion spread over 21,000 pounds of hot flesh.

In-class writing

- Who are you as a writer?
- Who do you want to become as a writer?

Skills
Styles
Interests
Comfort zone
Areas for growth
Past experiences
Things you're unsure of
Values
Questions

Introduce yourself / Meet others in the room

“Hi, my name is _____, and as a writer I’m _____.”

Famous classical musicians



Four composers



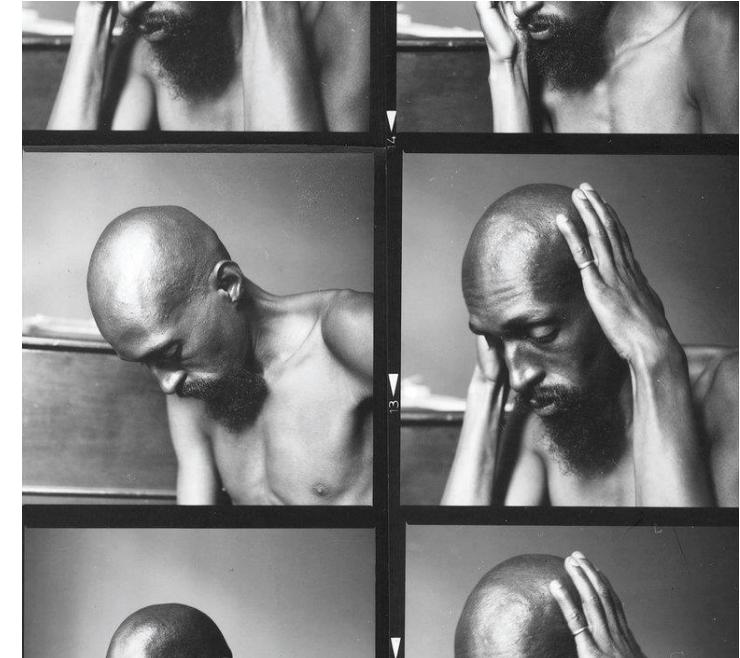
1685-1750



1770-1827



1819-96



1940-1990

Four composers



Johann
Sebastian Bach



Ludwig van
Beethoven



Clara Schumann



Julius Eastman

Four composers



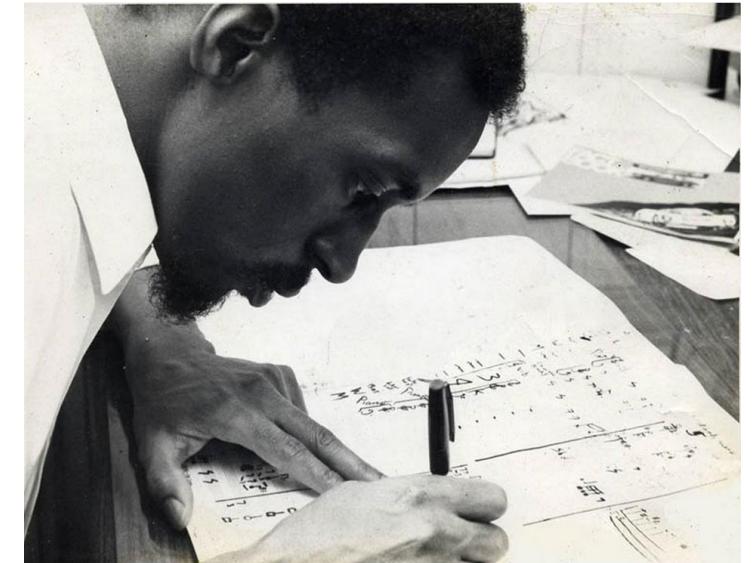
Had 17
children



Estranged from
his family

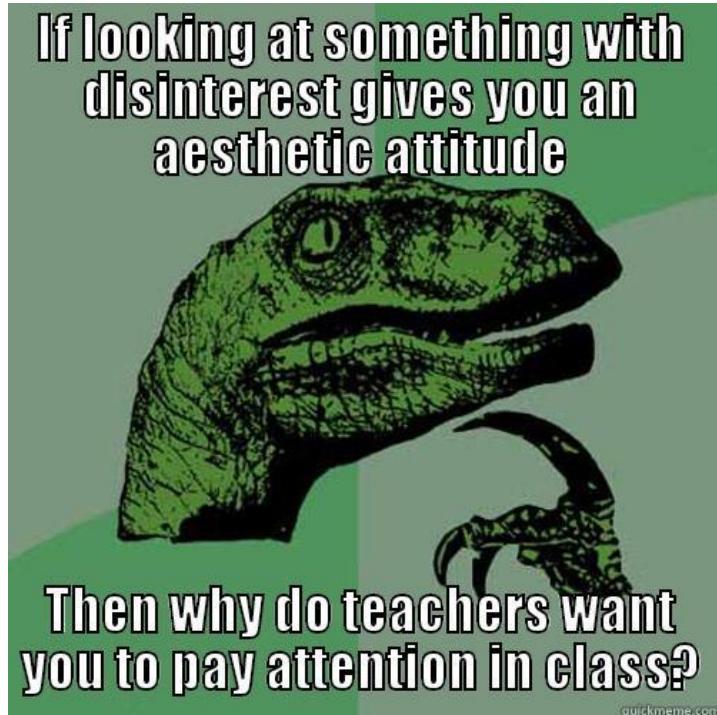


Raised 6 children, cared
for and committed her
husband and eldest son
to insane asylums



Died homeless

Famous classical musicians



- Why might you have heard of certain classical musicians and not others?
- Celebrity and quality are not the same thing
- Taste is never just personal—it's determined by access, power, social identity, and luck

Reminders

Study tip: Add our due dates into your day planner or calendar app!

- Assigned reading is available online
 - Medieval and Renaissance periods – Expect an essay
- Good weekly habit: Review lecture notes and previous assigned reading the day *after* class
- Participate in Online Discussion #2 (Music and the brain) by the end of Sun Feb 9
 - Email me your username (music.drjones@gmail.com)
 - Online Discussion #3 starts M Feb 10
- Writing 1 due M Feb 24 / W Feb 26
- College is closed W Feb 12
- Have a great week (or two)!



End quiz – You don't need to write the questions, just the answers

1. Arrange these four composers in chronological order, from oldest to most recent:

Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Julius Eastman, Clara Schumann

2. What are three (3) words that describe who you are as a writer now?

3. The statement below is false. Why is it false?

Good students never fail.