

# **Music Appreciation Final Exam Study Guide**

♪ Music = Sounds that are organized in time.

♪ Four Main Properties of Musical Sounds

- 1.) Pitch (the highness or lowness)
- 2.) Dynamics (loudness or softness)
- 3.) Timbre (tone color - quality)
- 4.) Rhythm (duration)

♪ Sound = Sounds are made when an object vibrates.

♪ Pitch = How high or low a sound is.

♪ Dynamics = How loud or soft music sounds.

♪ Tone = A sound that has a definite pitch.

♪ Interval = Distance between two pitches.

♪ pp = very soft (pianissimo)

♪ p = soft (piano)

♪ mp = moderately soft (mezzo piano)

♪ mf = moderately loud (mezzo forte)

♪ f = loud (forte)

♪ ff = very loud (fortissimo)

♪ Four Main Properties to Rhythm

- 1.) Beat
- 2.) Meter
- 3.) Accent
- 4.) Tempo

♪ Beat = Regular repeating pulse that divides music into equal parts.

♪ Meter = The organization of beats into regular groups.

- ♪ **Measure = A group with a fixed number of beats.**
- ♪ **Downbeat = First, or stressed, beat of a measure.**
- ♪ **Accent = To play the note louder than the other notes around it, just as we stress certain words in sentences when we are talking.**
- ♪ **Syncopation = Happens when an accent falls on a beat when we don't expect it.**
- ♪ **Tempo = Speed of a beat.**
- ♪ **Three Common Female Voices**
  - 1.) **Soprano**
  - 2.) **Mezzo-Soprano**
  - 3.) **Alto**
- ♪ **Three Common Male Voices**
  - 1.) **Tenor**
  - 2.) **Baritone**
  - 3.) **Bass**
- ♪ **Most music of the 1600s was vocal music.**
- ♪ **Six categories of instruments in Western Music.**
  - 1.) **Strings**
  - 2.) **Woodwinds**
  - 3.) **Brass**
  - 4.) **Percussion**
  - 5.) **Keyboards**
  - 6.) **Electronic**
- ♪ **Melody = Series of notes that add up to recognizable musical whole.**
- ♪ **Harmony = When two or more notes are played at the same time.**

♪ **Six Stylistic Periods of Western Music**

- 1.) Middle Age (450 – 1450)
- 2.) Renaissance (1450 – 1600)
- 3.) Baroque (1600 – 1750)
- 4.) Classical (1750 – 1820)
- 5.) Romantic (1820 – 1900)
- 6.) Twentieth Century (1900 – Present)

➤ **Middle Age (450 – 1450)**

♪ **Notate = To write down music.**

♪ **Gregorian Chant = Official music of the Roman Catholic Church.**

= Around the 700s, monks began to write down their music.

= A chant is a single melody (monophonic texture) set to a Latin text.

♪ **Three Social Classes of the Middle Ages**

- 1.) Clergy
- 2.) Nobility
- 3.) Peasantry

♪ **Notated music in the Middle Ages**

- Notes were diamond and rectangle shaped in the Middle Ages and oval (round) today. The staff had only four lines (five today).

➤ **Renaissance (1450 – 1600)**

♪ **Composer = a person who writes music.**

♪ **Word Painting = Making a musical “picture” of the text.**

♪ **Sacred Music = Music meant to be played in church.**

♪ **Secular Music = Music outside the church and meant to entertain.**

♪ **Madrigal = A secular piece performed by several solo voices.**

♪ Renaissance composers did not write for specific instruments because they were not readily available. Composers wrote music that could be played on an instrument.

➤ **Baroque (1600 – 1750)**

♪ All Baroque art is characterized by action and movement.

♪ Composers were hired by churches, courts, opera houses, and others to write music for specific occasions.

♪ Composers wrote a lot of music because they were being paid to do so and because the public demanded new music for every occasion.

♪ Opera extremely popular.

♪ J.S. Bach was the greatest musician of the Baroque period.

♪ Rhythm was expressed with repeating patterns that gives Baroque music energy, drive, and a feeling of constant motion.

♪ Baroque melodies are difficult to sing because they are elaborate making them complicated and they are not easy to remember.

♪ Terraced Dynamics = Sudden change in volume.

♪ Concerto Grosso = Soloist playing and then an entire ensemble playing.

♪ Program Music = Music that is associated with a story, poem, idea, or scene.

♪ Suites = Music composed for dancing.

♪ Oratorio = like an opera except there is no acting, scenery, or costumes.  
= written for a chorus, vocal soloists, and orchestra.

♪ Chorus = large group of singers

## ➤ **Classical (1750 – 1820)**

- ♪ The term classical comes from a desire to return to the “classic” art and architecture of the Greek and Romans.
  
- ♪ Three Master Composers of the Classical Era
  - 1.) Haydn
  - 2.) Mozart
  - 3.) Beethoven
  
- ♪ The middle class had an impact on the music of this time period as they wanted to see live performances and play music at home.
  
- ♪ Composers used folk and popular melodies in their music and they poked fun at the rich, that pleased the middle class.
  
- ♪ Vienna, Austria = The center of musical activity.
  
- ♪ Classical rhythm was very flexible in that it changed a lot in a piece of music while Baroque rhythm was in a constant motion.
  
- ♪ Syncopation = Where an accent falls on an unexpected beat.
  
- ♪ A classical medley is tuneful and easy to remember.
  
- ♪ Composers used crescendos and decrescendos as well as sudden shifts in dynamics.
  
- ♪ The piano was invented around 1700. It quickly replaced the harpsichord as the preferred keyboard instrument.
  
- ♪ The piano was more flexible in that it could play both loud and soft, hence the name “piano-forte” literally “soft-loud” and shortened to “piano.”
  
- ♪ Prodigy is a child who has extraordinary talent.

♪ **Joseph Haydn**

- ♪ **Composed 107 symphonies.**
- ♪ **He was instrumental in the development of chamber music such as the piano trio.**
- ♪ **His contributions to musical form have earned him the epithets "Father of the Symphony" and "Father of the String Quartet".**
- ♪ **Haydn taught both Mozart and Beethoven.**

♪ **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

- ♪ **Could sight read any music placed in front of him.**
- ♪ **Could play violin and harpsichord by age 6.**
- ♪ **Wrote a symphony at age 8.**
- ♪ **Wrote an opera at age 12.**
- ♪ **Could perform musical "tricks" such as playing upside down or blindfolded.**
- ♪ **Could compose music effortlessly and without the aid of a piano.**

♪ **Ludwig van Beethoven**

- ♪ **Beethoven was born in 1770 and died when he was 57 years old.**
- ♪ **Beethoven began to lose his hearing at 29.**
- ♪ **Helped transition music from Classical to Romantic era.**
- ♪ **Symphony No.5 most famous and recognizable works.**