Music 3763 Terminology Handout

Texture: the number and relationship of independent parts or melodies in a given musical work

Monophonic texture: a single melodic line

Homophonic texture: a predominant melodic line supported by *subsidiary* harmonies or other melodies

Polyphonic texture: two or more *independent* melodies played or sung simultaneously

Heterophonic texture: the same melody performed simultaneously by two or more instruments in more than one way (i.e., simultaneous improvisation)

Style period: “style” refers to the characteristic ways in which composers use the basic elements of music (rhythm, melody, texture, harmony, etc.). When groups of composers share the same or similar ideas about musical composition, they write in what we call the same or similar style. In studying the music of the past, we have given names to broad style periods (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, etc.) and to shorter or regional style periods (Notre Dame polyphony, Franco Netherlands style, First Viennese School, First New England School, etc.).

Genre: kind of music (concerto grosso, cantata, oratorio, fugue, suite, symphony, sonata, concerto, string quartet, opera, etc.)

Plan: number of movements, usually listed in tempo order (concerto grosso plan F-S-F, symphony plan F-S-M-F, etc.)

Form: the organization/structure of an individual movement (binary, ritornello, sonata, scherzo, etc.)

Genre: Baroque concerto grosso & solo concerto

Plan: Fast Slow Fast

Forms: Ritornello Variable Ritornello

Genre: Baroque suite (German)


Forms: Variable Binary Binary Binary Variable Binary
Genre: Classical symphony & string quartet

Plan: Fast Slow Moderate Fast

Forms: Sonata Sonata Minuet & Trio Sonata
       Ternary Scherzo & Trio Rondo
       Theme & Variations [Waltz: Romantic] Sonata-rondo
       Song Form (strophic)

Genre: Classical sonata & concerto

Plan: Fast Slow Fast

Forms: Sonata Ternary Sonata
       Song Form (strophic) Rondo
       Theme & Variations Sonata-rondo

Bar form: aab [a = Stollen, b = Abgesang]

Binary form: A B

Ternary form: A B A’

Da capo aria form: A (fine) B (da capo al fine) [performed A B A’]

Minuet & trio: Minuet – trio – minuet (da capo)

Scherzo & trio: Scherzo – trio – scherzo (da capo)

Sonata form: Exposition Development Recapitulation
           Tonic Dominant Modulation Tonic
           P (T) S K P (T) S K

Rondo form: A B A C A D A, etc.

Sonata-rondo: Exposition Development Recapitulation
               A B A C A B A

Methods of setting texts to music:

Strophic: each stanza of the text is sung to the same music

Modified strophic: some of the stanzas are set to the same music, but in others the music is altered or the music of each stanza is a variation of the first

Through composed: the music for each stanza is different