



Music Virtual Learning

Music Appreciation/20th Century Music Introduction

April 28, 2020



Lesson: April 28, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will be introduced to the social and technological aspects of the 20th century. Students will also be introduced to Modernism in the 20th Century.

Bell Work:

1. Based on your knowledge of previous eras, what do you predict will happen musically in the 20th century?
2. What are some new musical technological advances that you know of that took place between 1900-2000?
3. What do you think will influence how music is written during this time?

20th Century Music- 1900-2000

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qDdYlyLRoI>

Getting Started!

Music history has been pretty clear cut up to this point. Each era of music had a distinct set of composers and writing style. It's because of this that we can identify music from different eras. These eras last anywhere from 100-200 years and were a substantial part of the culture.

When we get to the 20th century, things are no longer predictable by music history standards. Over the course of 100 years we will see several different musical ideas take root, popular genres of music spring up at least every decade, and the social and political climate continue to influence music that was written.

Modernism and impressionism will take hold and music will seem, for lack of a better term, "weird."

Social Aspects of the 20th Century

People listened to what they had access to. Classical and Romantic Era music was most common at this time.

Going to live concerts was still tough to afford for the lower class.

Amateurs performed at home for family and friends and many more affluent homes had pianos.

Wanna be a good wife?....play the piano! Women were deemed more qualified to be a wife if she had musical skills.

Sheet music was readily available! People were employed in music stores to play music all day long for people to hear so they could choose if they wanted to buy it. This was limited to the mid-upper class.

Music was alive and well in society and many people were active in music making!

Technological Advances

1892-Grammophone- Commonly known as records (vinyl)

1920-Radio Broadcasting-Most stations played classical music.

Jazz hit the scene in the 1920's and would become the earliest form of popular music to be played and created.

Because of sound recording technology, many new genres of popular music were created.



Sound Recording

- Because of sound recording technology, many new genres of popular music were created.
- There were a wide range of listeners and this music was not limited to class any longer. Music was accessible to all people!
- Multi-tracking technology made it so many tracks could be recorded separately and then put together later. This was big in soul and motown.
- These advancements have brought us to our lives today where we download, stream, share, and much more in regards to music.

Evolution of Popular Music

This is the first era where there is a distinct break in classical and popular music.

In previous eras we have been able to divide music into the sacred and secular genres and then composers wrote in both those veins.

In this era, there is sacred and secular classical music and popular music.

Check out this short video of the evolution of popular music beginning with Jazz in 1900.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--leBaulER4>

Classical Modernism

In classical music, composers wanted to push the boundaries of music in the following ways:

1. Tonicity- Music will not necessarily feel as though it is centered in a certain key. There is always an unsettling feeling and no sense of “home” in the music.
2. Rhythm- Composers mixed up different time signatures or used odd time signatures never explored in previous genres.
3. Performing Forces- Orchestras and choirs were as large as possible, strange instruments were utilized and odd music written.
4. No rules- While music is always composed with a sense of order no matter how strange, composers did not write music in line with traditional composition rules.

Modern Tonality

Atonal Music/12 Tone Technique- This technique is a means of ensuring that all **12** notes of the chromatic scale are sounded as often as one another in a piece of music while preventing the emphasis of any one note through the use of **tone** rows, orderings of the **12** pitch classes.

This music is extremely organized and micromanaged, but sounds disorganized and just plain wrong.

Piano Sonata, op 1- Alban Berg- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqE5By_69OY

Atonal Music Composers

Arnold Schoenberg, Anton Webern and Alban Berg were the big proponents of 12 tone music. These men made up the 2nd Viennese School, the 1st Viennese School being made up of composers like Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Let's listen to Schoenberg.

Schoenberg: Klavierstück Op. 33a - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxO92VQ4h3c>

Fun Fact: Schoenberg suffered from Triskaidekaphobia, which is fear or avoidance of the number 13. It is also a reason for the fear of Friday the 13th, called paraskevidekatriaphobia or friggatriskaidekaphobia. The term was used as early as in 1910 by Isador Coriat in *Abnormal Psychology*.

Good thing it wasn't 13 Tone music! Schoenberg would have been scared to write it!

Rhythm

Time signatures were mixed and sometimes even bar lines omitted. You will also hear what we call polyrhythms, which are multiple time signatures being performed at one time. Here's an example of Stravinsky's orchestral work "Petrouchka." You will notice while listening that you can tap your foot to a beat, but it doesn't always feel right. There is an unsettled feeling even though they are performing the music as written. Listen to just a couple minutes of this work and see if you can identify these strange rhythmic ideas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esD90diWZds>

Performing Forces

The phrase, “Go big or go home,” is appropriate for this era. Composers wrote music for extremely large performing ensembles. Gustav Mahler is a good example. His 8th symphony, nicknamed “Symphony for a Thousand,” requires 2 large choirs, a children’s choir, 8 soloists, and a large symphony orchestra. Here’s a link to the last movement of the work. Make sure you watch to the end. It’s glorious!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WhNn6zxqVg>

Rules...There are no rules, well, mostly!

The rules that have been passed down from generation to generation by composers were always stretched and modified as time passed, but not completely ignored as we are seeing in this era. Harmonies, rhythms, performing forces, tonality and many other aspects of music making are being pushed to limits that many deemed offensive and degenerate. Even Hitler hated this type of music and banned it from being played. While 20th century composers didn't necessarily play by the old rules, they definitely wrote new ones as they pursued a new way of writing.

Lesson Reflection

1. What are 3 big takeaways you took from this lesson today?
2. Name some composers that stick out in your mind.
3. Name one social and technological advancement that advanced music production and absorption by audiences.
4. What is modernism in music and how did composers convey that in this era of music?
5. What do you think of the music so far?