New Directions

Exploring ways to develop music from small ideas in C20th Music

There were many different types, styles, genres and movements of music in the twentieth century. These include: Impressionism, 20th Century Nationalism, Jazz Influences, Polytonality, Atonality, Expressionism, Serialism, Microtonality, Electronic Music, Experimentalism, Minimalism, Pointillism and Music Concrète,



A. Features of Music in the Twentieth Century (How Composers used the Elements of Music)

A1. Melody & Dynamics	A2. Harmony	A3. Rhythm	A4. Timbres and Sonorities
CONJUNCT - wide leaps, angular and	ATONALITY – no (sense	SYNCOPATION – half beat	Strange, intriguing, and exotic sounds; striking, sometimes explosive, contrasts.
spiky.	of) key.	followed by full beat emphasising	PERCUSSION – expanded in orchestra and more emphasis on percussion
CHROMATIC -uses all 12 notes (black and	POLYTONALITY – two or	weaker beats of the bar.	timbre and sonorities.
white) of the CHROMATIC SCALE.	more keys played at	IRREGULAR ACCENTS (>) $-e.g.$	Unfamiliar sounds from strange instruments such as EXTREME PITCH RANGES
DISSONANCE - harsh sounds.	once.	The Rite of Spring	and playing instruments in different and unusual ways.
EXTREMES OF DYNAMICS - (pppp-ffff)	DISCORDS – dissonant,	IRREGULAR TIME SIGNATURES –	TOTALLY NEW SOUNDS often involving ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT and
No clear melody/"tune".	clashing chords.	5 or 7 beats per bar.	MAGNETIC TAPE.

C. Expressionism

B. Minimalism

Based on **CELLS** or **MOTIFS** – short simple ideas.

Use of **REPETITION** – also called **LOOPING**.

LAYERED TEXTURES

NO CLEAR MELODY

GRADUAL CHANGES OVER

TIME



PHASE SHIFT (PHASE IN/OUT) - when two or more motifs or cells begin in **UNISON** and gradually become "out of sync" with each other through displacement, either forwards or backwards.

METAMORPHOSIS – tiny changes are made over time to one note or to one part of the rhythm. This can go a "full circle" and end up exactly the same at the end.

ADDITIVE MELODY – adding notes to an original melodic cell gradually.

ISORHYTHMIC OVERLAP – combining different length motifs or ostinato patterns

AUGMENTATION – doubling the note values of a motif or cell.





DIMINUTION – halving the note values of a motif or cell. RETROGRADE/INVERSION/RETROGRADE INVERSION (see D. Serialism)

Famous Minimalist Composers include: Terry Riley, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Michael Nyman.

"Expressionism" is borrowed from painting and is concerned with dark, secret terrors, mental breakdowns, and fantastic visions.

ATONAL, DISSONANCE, DISJUNCT, LARGE ORCHESTRAS, UNUSUAL AND STRANGE TIMBRES AND SONORITIES.

Expressionist composers often use **HEXACHORDS** as a form of

ACCOMPANIMENT. Hexachords are chords formed of **SIX NOTES**. A hexachord can be formed on any note of the **CHROMATIC SCALE**, but must follow a strict pattern of

TONES and SEMITONES:

Semitone - Tone - Semitone -**Tone+Semitone - Semitone**

The notes can then be arranged in any order in different (and often extreme!) pitch ranges.

Famous Expressionist Composers include: Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, Anton Webern









TONE/NOTE ROWS – use the 12 notes of the CHROMATIC SCALE into an order (the

PRIME/ORIGINAL) on which the entire composition

importance

should appear out of turn.

is based.

notes are

of equal

and none

All 12

As well as being used in its PRIME/ORIGINAL, the tone/note row could also be used in:

INVERSION (intervals upside down) **RETROGRADE** (backwards)

RETROGRADE INVERSION (the

inversion row backwards)

These 4 rows would then become the bases of the composition, used either vertically (as chords) or horizontally (as melody).

Famous Serialist Composers include: Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, Anton Webern, Igor Stravinsky