

Listening Guides

For MUS 121, create 3 Listening Guides. These are moment-by-moment (“play-by-play”) descriptions of a specified piece of music. All music is discussed in class, mentioned in your book, and found on the assigned Spotify playlists.

Use the knowledge you have learned in MUS 121 (specifically from chapters 1-3) to create your listening guide. Specifically, discuss the following as they relate to specific time-marks in the piece of music:

- Dynamics
- Instrumentation
- Tempo
- Emotion
- Crescendo/decelendo
- Pattern recognition/repetition (if any)

Each piece should have at least **10 bullet point/time marks**. An example Listening Guide can be found at the end of this document. You may work on the Listening Guides with others in the class (the only portion of MUS 121 for which you may do so)—but, all wording must be in your own words (prove to me you understand what you’re saying) and you cannot receive information from another without participating in the listening/analysis.

Listening Guide schedule (for each guide, choose *one* of the pieces listed):

-Listening Guide 1 – due by July 18, end of day (submit on Blackboard)

Choose one:

1. The Four Seasons – Concerto 1: “Spring” (La Primavera) from Le Quattro Stagione, movement I, Allegro – Antonio Vivaldi (Playlist 2)
2. The Four Seasons – Concerto 2: “Summer” (L’estate) from Le Quattro Stagione, movement III, Presto - Vivaldi (Playlist 2)
3. Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565 – JS Bach (Playlist 2)

-Listening Guide 2 – due by July 25, end of day (submit on Blackboard)

Choose one:

1. Symphony No. 94 in G Major, movement II, “Surprise” – Franz Joseph Haydn (Playlist 3)
2. Symphony No. 5 in C minor, movement 1– Ludwig van Beethoven (Playlist 4)
3. *Turandot*: Nessun Dorma – Giacomo Puccini (sung here by Luciano Pavarotti) (Playlist 5)
4. Nocturne in E-flat, Op. 9, no. 2 - Frederic Chopin (Playlist 6)

-Listening Guide 3 – due by August 1, end of day (submit on Blackboard)

Choose one:

1. 1812 Overture – Peter Ilych Tchaikovksy (Playlist 7)
2. “Hoedown” from Rodeo – Aaron Copland (Playlist 8)
3. Prélude à L’après-midi d’un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun) - Claude Debussy (Playlist 8)

4. Their War Here from Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice – Hans Zimmer (Playlist 9)
5. "Music of the Night" from Phantom of the Opera - Andrew Lloyd Webber (Playlist 9)

Listening Guide example:

Title: Symphony No. 3 “Eroica” movement I

Composer: Ludwig van Beethoven

Guide:

0:00 The piece starts with two loud blasts of sound

0:04 The dynamics suddenly get quiet. Some strings seem to bounce in the background while others play the melody (which is very legato)

0:10 A crescendo takes place in the strings

0:20 The woodwinds (maybe a flute?) play the same melody that the piece opens with (pattern recognition)

0:45 The whole orchestra seems to play now. It’s very loud. I believe I hear a timpani. They play the main melody again (and the tempo is the same—moderate...not too fast nor slow). Emotionally, it sounds very heroic and triumphant.

0:55 The dynamics suddenly drop to piano and the woodwinds and strings seem to play the melody back and forth (as if having a conversation)

1:22 The emotion seems more intense and suspenseful at this moment (and the dynamics are a bit louder now)

1:45 The piece is quieter now and a melody begins that I haven’t yet heard in this piece

2:06 The strings play a very bouncy melody (staccato)

2:16-2:18 The strings play a large crescendo

2:45 The same note is played multiple times in large bursts of sound

3:37 The second melody I heard earlier re-appears

Etc. until the end of the movement