

High School Music History Assessment

Music History · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which period of music history is primarily defined by the development of polyphony and the works of composers like Guillaume de Machaut?

- A) Baroque
- B) Medieval**
- C) Classical
- D) Romantic

2. Which composer is most closely associated with the transition from the Classical to the Romantic era?

- A) Johann Sebastian Bach
- B) Ludwig van Beethoven**
- C) Antonio Vivaldi
- D) Franz Joseph Haydn

3. The term 'basso continuo' is a characteristic feature of music from which historical period?

- A) Renaissance
- B) Baroque**
- C) Impressionist
- D) Modern

4. Which musical form typically consists of an exposition, development, and recapitulation?

- A) Sonata form**
- B) Rondo
- C) Theme and Variations
- D) Minuet and Trio

5. Who is credited with composing the 'Four Seasons', a set of violin concerti?

- A) George Frideric Handel
- B) Claudio Monteverdi
- C) Antonio Vivaldi**
- D) Arcangelo Corelli

6. Which 20th-century composer is famous for the avant-garde work '4'33"', which consists entirely of silence?

A) Arnold Schoenberg

B) John Cage

C) Igor Stravinsky

D) Bela Bartok

7. In what city did the 'Second Viennese School', led by Arnold Schoenberg, primarily develop?

A) Paris

B) Berlin

C) Vienna

D) London

8. Which instrument family became the primary focus of the modern symphony orchestra during the Classical period?

A) Percussion

B) Strings

C) Brass

D) Electronic

9. The 'Rite of Spring', which caused a famous riot at its 1913 premiere, was composed by whom?

A) Claude Debussy

B) Maurice Ravel

C) Igor Stravinsky

D) Gustav Mahler

10. Which musical style emerged in the early 20th century, characterized by the use of whole-tone scales and fluid harmonic structures?

A) Minimalism

B) Impressionism

C) Expressionism

D) Neoclassicism

11. Which composer served as the 'Kapellmeister' for the Esterhazy family for nearly thirty years?

A) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

B) Franz Joseph Haydn

C) Ludwig van Beethoven

D) Johann Christian Bach

12. What is the primary technical characteristic of 'atonal' music?

- A) Use of a central key signature
- B) Avoidance of a traditional tonal center**
- C) Strict adherence to rhythmic patterns
- D) Use of only major chords

13. Which Renaissance composer is known for his influence on the development of the Catholic Church's polyphonic vocal music, particularly the 'Missa Papae Marcelli'?

- A) Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina**
- B) Thomas Tallis
- C) Josquin des Prez
- D) William Byrd

14. The term 'leitmotif' is most strongly associated with the operas of which composer?

- A) Giuseppe Verdi
- B) Richard Wagner**
- C) Giacomo Puccini
- D) Georges Bizet

15. Which jazz subgenre, emerging in the 1940s, is characterized by fast tempos, complex chord progressions, and virtuoso improvisation?

- A) Swing
- B) Bebop**
- C) Cool Jazz
- D) Fusion

16. Who wrote the 'Well-Tempered Clavier', a collection of preludes and fugues in all 24 major and minor keys?

- A) George Frideric Handel
- B) Johann Sebastian Bach**
- C) Domenico Scarlatti
- D) Henry Purcell

17. The invention of the printing press in the 15th century most directly facilitated the mass distribution of what?

- A) Sheet music**
- B) Recorded sound
- C) Radio broadcasts
- D) Digital files

18. Which composer's 'Symphonie Fantastique' is considered a landmark work of program music?

A) Felix Mendelssohn

B) Hector Berlioz

C) Johannes Brahms

D) Robert Schumann

19. What is the name of the complex polyphonic vocal form popular during the late Renaissance?

A) Madrigal

B) Motet

C) Chorale

D) Cantata

20. Which group of 20th-century composers is known for the 'minimalist' style characterized by repetitive patterns and gradual transformation?

A) Steve Reich and Philip Glass

B) Pierre Boulez and Karlheinz Stockhausen

C) Benjamin Britten and Ralph Vaughan Williams

D) Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein