Milestones in Musical Evolution

Music History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which 19th-century inventor is credited with creating the phonautograph, the earliest known device for recording sound waves visually?

A) Thomas Edison
B) Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville
C) Alexander Graham Bell
D) Charles Cros

2. The 'Fairlight CMI', released in 1979, is historically significant for being the first commercially available instrument to utilize which technology?

A) Physical modeling synthesis
B) Polyphonic analog oscillation
C) Digital sampling
D) Frequency modulation synthesis

3. In 1928, Leon Theremin patented the Theremin, which was the first musical instrument to function based on which physical principle?

A) Electromagnetic induction
B) Capacitance and proximity detection
C) Piezoelectric vibration
D) Optical sensor tracking

4. Who is credited with inventing the 'pianoforte' around 1700, introducing a mechanism that allowed for dynamic variation based on touch?

A) Bartolomeo Cristofori
B) Johann Sebastian Bach
C) Gottfried Silbermann
D) Andreas Ruckers

5. The first standardized system of Western musical notation, utilizing lines and spaces to denote pitch, is attributed to which 11th-century theorist?

A) Boethius
B) Guido of Arezzo
C) Hucbald of Saint-Amand
D) Franco of Cologne

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6. Which company released the 'TR-808' in 1980, a drum machine that became the first to use analog synthesis to emulate percussion sounds?

A) Korg
B) Sequential Circuits
C) Roland
D) Yamaha

7. What was the first commercially released music album to be recorded entirely using digital multitrack technology?

A) Bop Till You Drop by Ry Cooder
B) Brothers in Arms by Dire Straits
C) The Wall by Pink Floyd
D) Moving Pictures by Rush

8. The 'Sackbut', an ancestor of the modern trombone, first appeared in historical records during which century?

A) 13th century
B) 15th century
C) 17th century
D) 12th century

9. In 1948, Columbia Records introduced the 33 1/3 rpm 'Long Play' (LP) disc, which replaced what previous primary material in record manufacturing?

A) Celluloid
B) Bakelite
C) Shellac
D) Polyvinyl chloride

10. The 'Mellotron', a precursor to the sampler, generated its sounds through which mechanical method?

A) Magnetic tape loops
B) Rotating optical discs
C) Vibrating metal reeds
D) Pneumatic air pressure

11. Who published 'Harmonice Musices Odhecaton' in 1501, which is recognized as the first book of polyphonic music printed using movable type?

A) Ottaviano Petrucci
B) Pierre Attaingnant
C) Johann Gutenberg
D) Thomas Tallis

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12. The first commercially successful solid-body electric guitar, the Fender Telecaster, was originally marketed under what name in 1950?

A) Broadcaster
B) Esquire
C) Precision Bass
D) Stratocaster

13. What is the name of the earliest known piece of music notation, dating back to approximately 1400 BCE?

A) The Seikilos Epitaph
B) The Hurrian Hymn to Nikkal
C) The Delphic Hymns
D) The Montpellier Codex

14. The 'Synthesizer' concept was pioneered by the RCA Mark II Sound Synthesizer in 1957, which was notable for being the first to be programmed using what?

A) Punched paper tape
B) Vacuum tube oscillators
C) Magnetic wire
D) Modular patch cables

15. Which composer is credited with writing the first 'program symphony', titled 'Symphonie Fantastique', which introduced the concept of 'idée fixe'?

A) Franz Liszt
B) Hector Berlioz
C) Felix Mendelssohn
D) Richard Wagner

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