

Milestones in Musical Evolution

Music History · Practice Test · 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

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 Attaignant
- C) Johann Gutenberg
- D) Thomas Tallis

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