Advanced Music History Quiz

Music History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which 12th-century German abbess and polymath is considered one of the earliest known composers of Western sacred monophony?

A) Hildegard of Bingen
B) Leonin
C) Perotin
D) Guido of Arezzo

2. In Baroque music, what is the term for a bass line that provides a continuous harmonic foundation, typically played by a keyboard instrument and a bass instrument?

A) Basso continuo
B) Ground bass
C) Ostinato
D) Figured bass

3. Which classical composer is credited with standardizing the four-movement structure of the string quartet?

A) Franz Joseph Haydn
B) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
C) Ludwig van Beethoven
D) Luigi Boccherini

4. The 'Rite of Spring' by Igor Stravinsky, which caused a riot at its 1913 premiere, is an example of which musical style?

A) Primitivism
B) Impressionism
C) Expressionism
D) Minimalism

5. Which jazz musician is famously associated with the development of 'modal jazz' on the 1959 album 'Kind of Blue'?

A) Miles Davis
B) John Coltrane
C) Bill Evans
D) Charlie Parker

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6. What is the name of the complex rhythmic cycle used in Hindustani classical music to organize percussion patterns?

A) Tala
B) Raga
C) Dharma
D) Sitar

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

A) Johann Sebastian Bach
B) George Frideric Handel
C) Antonio Vivaldi
D) Domenico Scarlatti

8. The term 'bel canto', meaning 'beautiful singing', is primarily associated with the operas of which 19th-century Italian composers?

A) Rossini, Bellini, and Donizetti
B) Verdi and Puccini
C) Monteverdi and Cavalli
D) Gluck and Cherubini

9. Which American composer is known for the 1952 composition '4'33"', which consists entirely of silence?

A) John Cage
B) Philip Glass
C) Steve Reich
D) Terry Riley

10. The development of the 'prepared piano', where objects are inserted between strings to alter the sound, is attributed to which avant-garde composer?

A) John Cage
B) Henry Cowell
C) Erik Satie
D) Charles Ives

11. Which 19th-century virtuoso violinist composed the '24 Caprices for Solo Violin'?

A) Niccolò Paganini
B) Franz Liszt
C) Pablo de Sarasate
D) Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst

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12. Which specific technique of vocal ornamentation was a hallmark of the Baroque era, involving rapid, light singing?

A) Coloratura
B) Sprechstimme
C) Parlando
D) Falsetto

13. The 'Second Viennese School' of composition is led by which composer who pioneered the twelve-tone technique?

A) Arnold Schoenberg
B) Alban Berg
C) Anton Webern
D) Gustav Mahler

14. Which musical form was the primary orchestral medium of the Classical period, typically consisting of four movements?

A) Symphony
B) Concerto
C) Suite
D) Symphonic Poem

15. Which instrument, popular in the Renaissance and early Baroque, is characterized by its pear-shaped body and fretted neck?

A) Lute
B) Theorbo
C) Harpsichord
D) Viola da gamba

16. Who is considered the 'father of the string quartet' and composed over 60 works in the genre?

A) Franz Joseph Haydn
B) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
C) Ludwig van Beethoven
D) Franz Schubert

17. Which 20th-century composer utilized 'aleatoric' or chance music in his works, allowing for performer improvisation?

A) John Cage
B) Karlheinz Stockhausen
C) Pierre Boulez
D) Olivier Messiaen

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18. What is the term for the musical texture in which two or more independent melodic lines are played simultaneously?

A) Polyphony
B) Monophony
C) Homophony
D) Heterophony

19. Which female composer was a central figure in the Impressionist movement and wrote the piano piece 'D'un jardin clair'?

A) Lili Boulanger
B) Cécile Chaminade
C) Clara Schumann
D) Fanny Mendelssohn

20. The 'Tristan chord' is a famous harmonic progression from which opera by Richard Wagner?

A) Tristan und Isolde
B) Parsifal
C) The Ring Cycle
D) Lohengrin

21. Which composer wrote 'The Planets', a seven-movement orchestral suite?

A) Gustav Holst
B) Ralph Vaughan Williams
C) Edward Elgar
D) Benjamin Britten

22. The 'Gamelan' ensemble, which uses metallophones and gongs, originates from which country?

A) Indonesia
B) Thailand
C) Vietnam
D) Japan

23. Which early 20th-century movement aimed to return to the balanced forms and textures of the 18th century?

A) Neoclassicism
B) Modernism
C) Post-Romanticism
D) Minimalism

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24. The 'lied' is a musical form most famously developed in the 19th century by which German composer?

A) Franz Schubert
B) Robert Schumann
C) Johannes Brahms
D) Hugo Wolf

25. Which electronic instrument, patented in 1928, is played without physical contact using electromagnetic sensors?

A) Theremin
B) Ondes Martenot
C) Synthesizer
D) Trautonium