

# Spring 2024: Music History III Reflection Questions

---

## Overview:

- These were a graded assignment completed in class in the last week of the semester.
- Explanation offered:
- Why are we reflecting?
- Typical worksheet, drill-and-memorize, and test preparation approach to classroom teaching actually makes it difficult to retain the myriad bits of information you encounter during the school year. More effective is an instructional method that requires you to use important information repeatedly in complex and meaningful ways such as writing papers or completing projects.
- articulate and verbalize what you are learning—helps better digest and apply what you are learning in the course.
- self-reflection enhances learning and deepens connections and understanding with and between you & your colleagues.
- helps ME get descriptive feedback that I can use to improve my practice and the course itself.
- The questions were as follows (I asked for a hearty sentence for each):
- 1. Reflect on how you thought about **music after 1900** before you took this course and how you think about it now that the course is (almost!) over. What's **ONE** thing that changed for you?
- 2. What is one research method you used for something in this class?
- 3. What is one detail you'd like to remind yourself about in terms of what we discussed in this class? (this could be something we officially covered, or something that came up as you were thinking)
- 4. What is one thing that you learned in this class (or at least thought about in relation to this class) that connects with other work that you do? (this might include performing, teaching, scholarship in other disciplines, etc)

---

## Anonymized student responses:

### Student #1:

1. Before, my music history education predating 1900 entailed more of performance, composition, and composer history rather than how music is integrated and used in a variety of areas of our everyday lives such as film, dance spaces, politics, to tell stories, to describe place and more.

2. When we were learning about music and war, hearing about music being used as a torture tool made me feel more grateful to say I can just enjoy the music I play here at school.
  3. I would've enjoyed hearing more about how music is used as a control tactic and propaganda during the music and politics unit. More specifically, I wonder about how the United States has done this. Also, it is interesting to me how present American media (TV shows, movies) is internationally, especially music. I am curious if this is due to music diplomacy, which is the topic I chose for the last project we did, or if this is due to other factors.
  4. I think I would enjoy a few classes spent talking about Indigenous peoples music history. I think it is an important topic, especially living in this area as well as many of us not getting the best/most accurate education on this topic.
  5. That there is oftentimes a cultural or political shift in behavior when a new genre is created (disco being a space for the queer community, (some) jazz spaces being for black people).
- ^^ There are so many more details but this is the most general takeaway for me.

### **Student #2:**

1. I didn't realize how much went on with music during the 1900s. I found out through a variety of topics during this period that music played an effect of change in the ever changing world of modern technology at the time.
2. Something that surprised me was how much there was to discuss about music and dance. From dancing to just the feel of certain genres of music or it being incorporated in a political way, I never realized just how much of a big deal this specific topic was!
3. I would have loved to do more with our soundwalking unit. I think it would have been cool to do this topic during a break where we all went home so we can later discuss the differences in sounds that we regularly hear.
4. One musical example I would have added would be late 2000s/2010s pop songs. I find it interesting how they make use of a lot of electric sounds to make it sound futuristic and advanced, however today we can just tell they are songs from that era.
5. One thing I learned that I can connect this with other works is to explain the reasonings that go behind musical projects. I feel like we have always discussed a deeper meaning towards things and this let me expand my mind for topics outside of the class as well!

### **Student #3:**

1. Before taking this class, I always thought of music from this time as one big, jumbled, blur with a lot to cover at once. I was always aware that there were massive

innovations that influenced a lot of modern music, but I never knew what they actually were. It was something I always wanted to learn more about. Now, I have a better understanding and grounding of where everything came from in the music from this time period.

2. One thing that surprised me in this class is just how vast and rich with information this topic is.

3. I would research the early blues longer. I love playing Blues music, and I've always wanted to deepen my understanding of it. Along with that, it has a monumental influence on all of modern popular music.

4. I would incorporate progressive rock/progressive music. It was an influential musical attitude that focused on player virtuosity, and it opened up chances for practically limitless opportunities. It also brought a much different kind of audience environment to music in general.

5. I learned the influences of a lot of the music I play, create, and listen to in general. I think it is highly relevant and it is crucial that musicians know the origins and the meaning behind everything they play in their careers.

#### **Student #4:**

1. I mainly thought about avant garde music, serialism, etc before I took this course, but now have a broader mindset of all different types of music, including politics, video game music, etc.

2. I was not expecting to go over a vast amount of different topics like we did. I thought it would be more traditional music, but diving into subgenres was a really engaging experience.

3. I would continue to research music and place more. I really found it fascinating how composers create music that evoke a specific place or sense of nationality. I would definitely tie this into music and politics as well.

4. I would add Fantasy on a Theme of Sousa by Andrew Boysen Jr. to the curriculum. This piece is based on "Fairest of the Fair" by John Philips Sousa (which coincidentally was written after 1900 on its own). The fantasy goes into the main themes of the piece and adds a few more modern twists. I would add this to show how much has evolved through the century and what composers are doing with more traditional repertoire. I would also consider adding Ives' "Variations on America" for similar reasons.

5. I took a lot away from the Music and Narrative section of this class. This is a topic I bring into my personal teaching and learning to further musical understanding.

#### **Student #5:**

1. Before this class, I assumed that music after 1900 was mostly rock n roll, jazz and hip hop. My eyes were opened to a whole new world of various genres that I would have never studied before..

2. I was surprised about the complexity of film music in the early days of film and its controversial roots.
3. I would love to study more on that exact topic. I really became intrigued with film scores, especially with player pianos.
4. I really think an animation section to the film unit would be really interesting to learn more about.
5. Learning about new genres links to the way I will teach my students in the future and promotes a diverse learning environment and a better understanding for other cultures.

**Student #6:**

1. Before this class, anytime I thought about music post 1900 I would always just revert to the newer music of our century. After taking this class it reminded me of the diverse types of music that have come about in just that 100 year span as well and I can easily put into perspective now just how wide that range was as well
2. I was surprised how modern it really was. Typically when I've taken history classes before even in high school nothing touches on current day events or things that are relatable like video games
3. Definitely video games, I've always been interested in video game soundtracks and even though I know some stuff about them I would always love to dig deeper into them. Especially really dig into the different types and how they have evolved over the years to today
4. I think possibly taking a deeper look into the movie/tv show soundtracks could be an interesting new perspective and musical topic. I feel it is similar to video games and would go along great with that topic. Music from movies and tv shows is really an important topic in my opinion because it showcases how music and media go hand and hand as well as emotional connection to music and score writing to accompany a scene.
5. Honestly I feel like I could connect a lot of things that we learned to my musical practices but if I had to choose one specific thing maybe music and place. I tend to love connecting music to locations or "places" in my head when I sing or perform them. Having a set scene in my brain allows me to perform better and learning about how music can evoke scene was cool to me and connected to something I already do.

**Student #7:**

- 1) I think music after 1900 was going to be my favorite course in the history sequence. I love the early 20th century impressionist sound, I love the jazz and the big band sound. I was raised on rock, metal, grunge, and other sounds; and I absolutely adore rap music, this was the best opportunity to cover topics relevant to not just my curricular life, but especially my personal life.

- 2) I think aleatory music was a really fun topic to interact with, I knew it existed but had never really heard anything of it so it was fun to be able to experience in an educational setting.
- 3) Easily more music and politics, they're so intertwined and there's so many opportunities to research within the topic.
- 4) One musical example I would add is probably any song off of Good Kid Maad City by Kendrick Lamar, there's a lot to learn about in terms of rap and political history on the album and I think it would make for an interesting lecture day.
- 5) I learned about extended vocal techniques, which I think make funny noises and have kind of slipped there way into my personal life in small and goofy ways.

**Student #8:**

1. One thing that changed for me was discovering how Politics have shaped the course of the development of musical conversations over the last 100 years.
2. Something that surprised me about music and politics is that Governments saw value in music as a way to control people.
3. I would love to continue to research the history of dance halls and their development over time.
4. I think that I would add Spiritual music to this curriculum because I think that although it is a small genre it is a very interesting topic.
5. Something that this class taught me is that when you create things that people enjoy, they will come and contribute to your creations. This made me think about how I am often fearful of taking on creative endeavors because of fear of judgement.