

Listening Like a Musician: Student Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Today we're learning to listen with intention! In this activity you'll practice **identifying, observing** and **analyzing** key musical elements in order to gain a better understanding of how composers build emotion, structure, and meaning in music.

Piece Title & Composer: _____

Section 1: First Impressions

Listen to the piece and write freehand observations in the section provided below.

Listening Notes/Observations:

After listening, take a few moments to answer the following questions.

What mood or emotions did the music evoke for you?	Did any specific section or musical idea stand out?

Section 2: Listening Deeper

As you listen to the piece a second time, use the categories below to guide your listening, and jot down observations and questions you have about the music.

Melody <i>Ex. What kind of melody do you hear? Is it smooth? Does it remind you of anything?</i>	Harmony <i>Ex. What kind of harmonies do you hear? Are they simple? Complex? Consonant? Dissonant?</i>
Rhythm <i>Ex. What kind of rhythm do you hear? Is there syncopation? What do you guess the time signature is?</i>	Tempo <i>Ex. What's the tempo? Can you separate the beat from the subdivisions? Can you guess the bpm?</i>

Section 3: Reflection on Observations

Using the observations you have written in the first two sections, answer the following reflection questions. This will help us communicate exactly what we heard, and why.

What do you think the composer was trying to express or communicate with this piece? Why?
What specific things did you hear that make you think so?

What part of the music caught your attention most and why?

How would you describe this piece to someone who hasn't heard it before?

What, if anything, would you change about the piece if you were the composer and why?

Use this space to put any miscellaneous observations, opinions, questions about the music and/or any other kinds of reflection you may have.

Section 4: Connecting the Dots

Using the observations you have written in the first two sections, and the reflections written in the third, use the prompt below to connect your life experiences to the piece.

Please take a few moments to think about what we just listened to and relate any part of this piece to an experience in your life. Whether it be an experience you personally had, a scene from a movie, tv show, video game, or book, or an experience you hope to have in the future. Why are you connecting this music to this experience? What **specific observations** are leading you to this conclusion.

Section 5: Take-Home Creative Response

Please choose one of the following prompts to complete using all of the observations, reflections and connections you've made to the piece you've chosen today.

-  Sketch an abstract visual representation of the music.
- Write a short story or poem inspired by the piece
-  Create and transcribe a short melodic idea inspired by what you heard.