



Mr Peter Siepmann (pas)

<http://www.petersiepmann.net/teaching>

Please ask questions
in class or via email (pas)

Please keep all your notes, worksheets, preps, etc. well organised
in a ring binder dedicated to your GCSE Music Listening



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Exam Feedback



Prep (to be handed in this time next week)

Go through your exam paper and make sure you understand all the corrections.

Any answers marked 'Re-write', you should answer again on a separate sheet.



AoS 2: *New directions in Western Music*

Exercise

Can we perform an interesting, engaging piece of music given just four notes?



Group A – sing first note only, holding it continuously (stagger your breathing!)

Group B – hum the second and third notes, alternating between them at varying speeds – note lengths entirely up to you.

Group C – sing the motif, changing direction (forwards or backwards) as you wish. Note lengths entirely up to you.

Group D – Sing the motif as written repeatedly, at what ever tempo you wish.

Group A start. Other groups – enter when you wish. Performers may stop/start as they wish. At the end – all groups diminuendo, groups A, C, D then stop, leaving just group B humming, who gradually fade to nothing.



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- What musical features can you identify in the experimental piece we just performed?



Minimalism describes movements in various forms of art and design, especially visual art and music, where the work is stripped down to its most fundamental features.

It 'grew up' during the 1960s on the West coast of the USA.

- Major figures and influences in Minimalism





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Example:

In C by Terry Riley (1965)

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=qy42bYyQNAg>

GCSE Anthology, page 71/72

What methods does Riley use to make each **cell**?

Make sure to keep your 'Features of Minimalism' sheet updated!

Comment on the harmony of *In C* and compare it to other 20th century art music, such as [this](#) (Ligeti – *Ten Pieces* (1968)).



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Minimalism

Example:

Clapping Music *by* Steve Reich (1971)

http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=BhhIZscEE_g

GCSE Anthology p. 72/73

Example:

Drumming *by* Steve Reich (1971)

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=BZtR4BduVAA>

- The entire piece is structured around a single repeated rhythm, one bar (in 12/8) long.
- This rhythm is slowly built up note by note, gradually replacing rests with beats.
- After the rhythm is completely built up, two of the players phase to where they are playing the same pattern one quarter-note apart from each other, and the other bongo players play resulting patterns that can be heard as a result of the combination of the phased patterns.

What do you think influenced Reich to write this piece?



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Example:

Piano Phase *by* Steve Reich (1967)

http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=JW4_8KjmzZk

- Two pianists begin by playing a rapid twelve note melodic figure over and over again in unison.
- After a while, one of the pianists begins to play their part slightly faster than the other until they are playing the second note of the figure at the same time the other pianist is playing the first note. The tempo is then held for a while.
- The process is repeated until the second pianist plays the third note as the first pianist is playing the first.
- Repeat the process again and again until the two pianists are back in unison.

What sort of mood does this piece create?

If there is time at the end of the lesson, try to perform *Clapping Music*.



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The use of technology

- tape loops
- sampling
- reverberation, panning and other effects

Example:

It's gonna rain *by* Steve Reich (1965)

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=LX2ZWbZvKlw>

What other sort of music does this remind you of?



AoS 2: New directions in Western Music

Minimalism

The use of technology

- tape loops
- sampling
- reverberation, panning and other effects

Example:

Time becomes a loop by Orbital (1965)

<http://www.youtubedoubler.com/?video1=http://www.youtube.com/v/9toILFW1h4&v>

Is this music?! Discuss.



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Example:

Violin Concerto, 1st movement *by* Philip Glass (1987)

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=UNXaQFP5amE>

What common melodic musical device is used for the beginning of the violin's solo passage?

What minimalist techniques can you hear in this piece?

How is Philip Glass' style different to that of Reich or Riley?



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Prep (to be handed in next lesson)

Electric Counterpoint, 1st movement (1988)

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=6ma2ffqyfl4>

1. a) What minimalist features do you observe in this piece? (10)
2. a) When was Steve Reich born? (1)
b) Name two other minimalist composers, along with the titles of pieces they wrote. (4)
3. Compare *Electric Counterpoint* to the *Violin Concerto* by Philip Glass. What features do they share? How are they different? (8)
4. Do you like minimalist music? Give reasons for your answer. (7)

If there is time at the end of the lesson, watch [this](#) documentary about Steve Reich.



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Minimalism

Test

Handed out in class.

This question is from a real GCSE Music Listening paper.

You will hear the music three times with short pauses between each playing. There will be two minutes after the last playing during which to complete your answers.

We will then mark it together in class.

Hand in your answers at the end of the lesson.



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Minimalism

Example:

Short ride in a fast machine *by* John Adams (1986)

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=R1oOUJRpJW0&feature=related>

Discussion

Do you think this is a minimalist piece or not? Why?

Do you think John Adams' style is closer to that of Steve Reich or Philip Glass. Why?

If there is time at the end of the lesson, watch/listen to [this](#) minimalist piece, set to ballet.



AoS 2: *New directions in Western Music* **Minimalism**

Prep - Discussion

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1. a) What minimalist features do you observe in this piece? (10)
2. a) When was Steve Reich born? (1)
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3. Compare *Electric Counterpoint* to the *Violin Concerto* by Philip Glass. What features do they share? How are they different? (8)
4. Do you like minimalist music? Give reasons for your answer. (7)



AoS 2: New directions in Western Music
Minimalism (“a little goes a long way”!)

Project (this week's lessons plus prep)

Make sure your 'Features of Minimalism' sheet is complete and up-to-date.

Compose your own minimalist piece. It can be for any instrument(s), but you are advised to write for instruments of which you have practical knowledge.

Your composition should have a clear brief/scenario/philosophy as motivation, and should include many of the minimalist characteristics we have visited in class.

(50)