

6-2019

# Music Appreciation: Music of Latin America

Lorie L. Francis

Missouri University of Science and Technology, [lorief@mst.edu](mailto:lorief@mst.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsmine.mst.edu/oer-course-materials>



Part of the [Music Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Francis, Lorie L., "Music Appreciation: Music of Latin America" (2019). *Course Materials*. 3.  
<https://scholarsmine.mst.edu/oer-course-materials/3>

Creative Commons License

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 4.0 License](#).

This Course materials is brought to you for free and open access by Scholars' Mine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Course Materials by an authorized administrator of Scholars' Mine. This work is protected by U. S. Copyright Law. Unauthorized use including reproduction for redistribution requires the permission of the copyright holder. For more information, please contact [scholarsmine@mst.edu](mailto:scholarsmine@mst.edu).

# Music Appreciation: Music of Latin America

Lorie L. Francis, Associate Teaching Professor





# Class expectations

What is this class all about??



# Syllabus

- ❖ A printable version is located within canvas
  - ❖ Quick overview of syllabus
- ❖ It is important to remember this is a blended class
  - ❖ No class is held on Fridays
- ❖ Procedure for checking out a drum for practicing
  - ❖ Rooms are only open certain hours
  - ❖ Drums CANNOT be taken out of the building
- ❖ Best way to contact me is through email
  - ❖ [lorief@mst.edu](mailto:lorief@mst.edu)
  - ❖ Office hours are 1:00-2:00 Monday and Wednesday; other hours as arranged

# Musical Fingerprint?

- ❖ Why are you here?
- ❖ What do you expect to learn?
- ❖ What exactly “is” *Music Appreciation*?
  - Which Latin American countries’ music will be studied?
  - Why is this important?
- ❖ What is a *musical fingerprint*?
- ❖ Will this fingerprint change at all during the semester?

# Listening to Music Today

- ❖ Development of listening skills
  - ❖ Active listening
- ❖ Repeated encounters
  - ❖ Knowing a piece
- ❖ Excitement of a live concert
  - ❖ Nothing can really take the place of a live performance
- ❖ Traditions surrounding concerts
  - ❖ Important to know to contribute to the enjoyment of live performance



# Materials of Music

What you need to know in order to discuss music



# Melody: Music Line

- ❖ Music sounds have pitch, determined by frequency
- ❖ Pitches represented on 5 line staff
  - ❖ Symbol designates pitch and duration
- ❖ Pitches also have volume and tone color (timbre)
- ❖ Melodies are a succession of pitches
  - ❖ Range is the distance between the highest and lowest notes in a melody
  - ❖ Contour is the overall shape of the melody
  - ❖ Interval is the distance between any 2 pitches
    - ❖ Conjunct
    - ❖ Disjunct



# The Structure of a Melody

## ❖ Phrase

- ❖ A unit of meaning within a larger structure. A “musical sentence” of sorts.

## ❖ Cadence

- ❖ Resting places at ends of phrases. Musical punctuation.
- ❖ Some cadences are more final sounding than others.

## ❖ Melodies with text may have rhyme scheme

## ❖ Climax

- ❖ Peak of intensity in a melody

## ❖ Countermelody

- ❖ A melody happening simultaneously with another melody. Musical conversation.

# Rhythm and Meter: Keeping Musical Time

## ❖ Rhythm

- ❖ Movement of music in time

## ❖ Beat

- ❖ Regular pulse, a basic unit of rhythm

- ❖ Some beats are accented (louder) than others, much like speech

## ❖ Meters

- ❖ Patterns of accented (louder) and unaccented (softer) beats

- ❖ Marked off in measures (bars).

# Metrical Patterns

- ❖ Downbeat
- ❖ Upbeat
- ❖ Duple meter
- ❖ Triple meter
- ❖ Quadruple meter
- ❖ Simple meters
  - ❖ Beat divided into two
- ❖ Compound meters
  - ❖ Beat divided into three

# What about complex rhythms?

- ❖ Syncopation
  - ❖ Accent shifted to a weak beat or an offbeat
- ❖ Polyrhythm
  - ❖ Simultaneous use of conflicting rhythmic patterns
- ❖ Additive rhythms
  - ❖ Patterns built from combination
- ❖ Nonmetric
  - ❖ No strong sense of beat or meter

# Harmony: Musical Depth and Interest

- ❖ Harmony

  - ❖ Two or more different notes heard at the same time

- ❖ Chord

  - ❖ Two or more notes sounded together

- ❖ Scales

  - ❖ A series of pitches arranged in ascending or descending order

- ❖ Triad

  - ❖ Three note chord, often every other note in a scale

# Is harmony organized in any way?

- ❖ Tonic
  - ❖ First note of a scale
  - ❖ Often where music starts and ends. “Home”
- ❖ Tonality
  - ❖ Organizing a work or portion of a work around a central note (home)
- ❖ Major
  - ❖ Happy sounds
- ❖ Minor
  - ❖ Sad sounds
- ❖ Modulation
  - ❖ Changing key (tonality) within a piece. “Straying from home”

# Why are some pieces happy while others seem to just fight?

- ❖ Tension and release happen as the music moves in time
- ❖ Tension
  - ❖ Dissonance (conflict; the notes “fight” each other)
- ❖ Release
  - ❖ Consonance (relaxation; the notes seem “happy”)
- ❖ Harmony can be as simple as a sustained drone (a note that does not change as the melody moves)

# So how are all the musical sounds organize together?

- ❖ Pitches (notes) are named using letters A-G
  - ❖ The letters start over again when the octave (8 notes) is reached
- ❖ Western music divides the octave into 12 equal half-steps (the smallest interval in Western music)
  - ❖ Not all non-Western cultures use this system; some use smaller intervals called microtones



# Do chromatics have anything to do with chrome?

- ❖ There are 12 half-steps that make up an octave
  - ❖ The chromatic scale is made up of all half steps
- ❖ On a piano, all the white and black keys between pitches an octave apart
  - ❖ Black keys are named in relation to their white key neighbors, depending on direction up or down
    - ❖ Sharp (up, notated with #)
    - ❖ Flat (down, notated with b)
- ❖ 2 half-steps equal one whole step

# What exactly is a scale?

## What is this “major” or “minor” thing?

- ❖ “Key” is the central tone around which a piece of music is built and denotes which harmonies can be used
- ❖ Major scales all have the same pattern of whole and half steps
  - ❖ W-W-H-W-W-W-H
- ❖ Note relationships have certain jobs
  - ❖ For instance, the 7<sup>th</sup> note of the scale usually resolves to the 8<sup>th</sup> (or 1)
- ❖ Tonic (1<sup>st</sup> note of the scale) and dominant (5<sup>th</sup> note of the scale) and their harmonies are the two main poles

# Minor or miner? WE ARE MINERS!

- ❖ Minor scales actually have three different forms
  - ❖ Natural, harmonic, and melodic
  - ❖ Pieces of music can use one form or all three at any given time
- ❖ Minor keys are often thought of as sad, while major keys seem happy or cheerful

# Major or minor. Got it. Is that all there is?

- ❖ Not all cultures use the major/minor system
- ❖ Pentatonic scale
- ❖ Tritonic scale
- ❖ Microtones
- ❖ Whole tone scale
- ❖ Modes

# Diatonic vs. Chromatic

## Clash of the Notes

- ❖ When a piece is said to be diatonic, it is firmly rooted in the notes of a specific key
  - ❖ C Major
  - ❖ c minor
- ❖ Chromatic music uses notes foreign to the key
  - ❖ This adds tension to a piece of music

# How does the major-minor system work?

- ❖ Tonic chord (I), built on the first note of the scale, is thought of as a point of rest
- ❖ Dominant chord (V), built on the fifth note of the scale, tends to resolve to tonic (but not always)
- ❖ Subdominant chord (IV), built on the fourth note of the scale, is the last of what are termed the primary chords
- ❖ Are these all the chords that exist?

# I have my musical foundation. Am I ready yet?

- ❖ Tonic, Subdominant, and Dominant are the three “primary chords”
- ❖ Modulation
- ❖ Transposition
- ❖ Using the harmonic system gives shape and meaning to musical works

# Texture? Music has texture?

- ❖ Monophony: single voice or line
  - ❖ Unison
- ❖ Heterophony: multiple versions of a melody heard simultaneously
- ❖ Polyphony: two or more different melodic lines combined, based on counterpoint
- ❖ Homophony: single melody, subordinate accompaniment
  - ❖ Homorhythm: homophony where all the voices or parts move in the same rhythm
  - ❖ Hymn style



# Contrapuntal...what?!?!

- ❖ Imitation: melody or line presented in one voice (part) and restated in another
- ❖ Canon: Strict imitation
  - ❖ Round: a type of canon in which each voice enters in succession with the same melody
  - ❖ Think of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” sung in a round

# Form...wait, music has form?

## ❖ Form

- ❖ The way the elements of a composition are used to make the music understandable
- ❖ Balance between unity and variety
  - ❖ Art and nature have balance
  - ❖ Symmetry and asymmetry
  - ❖ Activity and rest

# Okay, what exactly are some of the things used in musical form?

- ❖ Repetition and contrast
  - ❖ Most basic musical device
- ❖ Strophic vs. through-composed
- ❖ Variation
  - ❖ While some aspects are altered, the original remains recognizable
- ❖ Improvisation
  - ❖ Made up on the spot

# Texture and listening. Does it matter?

- ❖ The different textures need different styles of listening
  - ❖ Monophonic has a single focus
  - ❖ Homophonic/homorhythmic is the most familiar
  - ❖ Polyphonic demands more experience and more exposure

# Binary and Ternary

Hey, I've used binary code before!

- ❖ Binary or two-part form

- ❖ Outlined as A-B, often with a repeat of each section

- ❖ A-A-B-B

- ❖ Ternary or three-part form

- ❖ Outlined as A-B-A

- ❖ Try to not think of this as a variation of binary form

# Great, so what makes form?

- ❖ Theme
  - ❖ Melody used as the building block for a larger work
- ❖ Thematic development
  - ❖ Expansion of a theme
- ❖ Sequence
  - ❖ Restate the them at a higher or lower pitch level
- ❖ Motives
  - ❖ Smaller units of a them
- ❖ Call and response (responsorial)
- ❖ Ostinato
- ❖ Movements

# Some like fast music, others like slow music

- ❖ Speed of the underlying beats determines tempo
  - ❖ Often there is a connection between tempo and mood
- ❖ Tempo markings
  - ❖ *Grave, largo, adagio, andante, moderato, allegro, vivace, presto*
  - ❖ Modifiers might include *molto, meno, poco, non troppo*
  - ❖ *Accelerando, ritardando, a tempo*

# Dynamics

Are these related to thermodynamics?

- ❖ Dynamic refers to the loudness or softness
- ❖ *Pianissimo, piano, mezzopiano, mezzoforte, forte*
  - ❖ *pp, p, mp, mf, f*
- ❖ *Crescendo, decrescendo, diminuendo*



# Express yourself in music

- ❖ Composers add tempo and dynamic markings to have a bit of control over expressive content
- ❖ Obviously, the indications are a bit imprecise
  - ❖ Interpretation is up to each individual performer
  - ❖ This is why recordings of the same piece by different people can vary greatly

# But, what if I'm a singer and NOT an instrumentalist?

- ❖ Vocalists get text
- ❖ Scat singing
- ❖ Wide variety of languages encountered
- ❖ Sometimes a composer writes the melody first, sometimes text comes first
- ❖ Stanzas (strophes)
- ❖ Refrain (chorus)
- ❖ Syllabic, melismatic, neumatic
- ❖ Word or text painting

# I've heard of timbre. Isn't it sawed up wood?

- ❖ Timbre is also known as tone color
- ❖ Accounts for the differences in sound quality of musical instruments
- ❖ Timbre is influenced by many factors, including:
  - ❖ Size
  - ❖ Shape
  - ❖ Material
  - ❖ Manner in which the vibration is produced

# Yes, the voice is an instrument too.

- ❖ All cultures have some sort of vocal music
- ❖ Standard designations for vocal ranges
  - ❖ Soprano
    - ❖ Mezzo Soprano
  - ❖ Alto
    - ❖ Contralto
  - ❖ Tenor
    - ❖ Castrati
    - ❖ Countertenor
  - ❖ Bass
    - ❖ Baritone

Well, what are the designations for instruments? Are they the same as for vocalists?

❖ Four traditional designations

❖ Strings

❖ Woodwinds

❖ Brass

❖ Percussion

❖ Not all instruments are going to fit into one

❖ The piano, for instance

I've heard of other categories for instruments though...

- ❖ Aerophones
- ❖ Chordophones
- ❖ Membranophones



# Members of the string family

## ❖ Bowed

- ❖ Violin (fiddle)

- ❖ Viola

- ❖ Cello

- ❖ Double bass (string bass, standup bass)

## ❖ Plucked

- ❖ Harp

- ❖ Guitar

- ❖ Banjo

- ❖ Mandolin

# Not all woodwinds are made of wood.

- ❖ Woodwinds have either a mouth hole, single reed, or double reed
- ❖ Instruments in the woodwind family include:
  - ❖ Flute, piccolo
  - ❖ Oboe, English horn
  - ❖ Clarinet, bass clarinet
  - ❖ Bassoon, contrabassoon
  - ❖ Saxophone



# Brass instruments

## That means...TRUMPETS!

- ❖ Cup-shaped mouthpieces, metal tubing, and a bell flare at the end
- ❖ Brass instruments would include:
  - ❖ Trumpet
  - ❖ French Horn
  - ❖ Trombone
  - ❖ Tuba
  - ❖ Bugle

# Percussion

- ❖ Not all instruments have pitch
  - ❖ It's all about physics!
- ❖ Definite pitch
  - ❖ Timpani (kettledrums)
  - ❖ Xylophone, marimba, vibraphone
- ❖ Indefinite pitch
  - ❖ Snare drum, bass drum
  - ❖ Castanets, triangle, cymbal

# Keyboard

- ❖ Keyboard instruments have their own category
- ❖ Piano
  - ❖ Strings are struck by a felt covered hammer
- ❖ Organ
  - ❖ Air is blown through pipes of various lengths and circumference
  - ❖ Pipes can be made of wood or metal
- ❖ Harpsichord
  - ❖ Strings are plucked by a plectra attached to a jack

# Ensembles

- ❖ Wide variety of musical ensembles
  - ❖ The variety of types of instruments contributes to the variety of ensembles
  - ❖ Pretty much any combination
- ❖ Homogeneous
  - ❖ Instruments from the same family
    - ❖ String quartet
- ❖ Heterogeneous
  - ❖ Instruments from different families
    - ❖ Piano quartet

# CHOIR!

- ❖ Chorus, Choir, Vocal Ensemble
- ❖ SATB
- ❖ SSA
- ❖ TTBB
- ❖ *A cappella*: Literally, in the style of the chapel
  - ❖ No instrumental accompaniment

# Chamber Ensembles

- ❖ Generally, a group of 2-12, one player per part
- ❖ Some standard chamber ensembles
  - ❖ String quartet or quintet
  - ❖ Duo sonata
  - ❖ Piano trio, quartet, quintet
    - ❖ These are **NOT** ensembles of 3, 4, or 5 pianos
    - ❖ Multiple pianos are termed Piano Duo or Piano Ensemble
  - ❖ Sextet, septet, octet
  - ❖ Woodwind and brass quintets

# Orchestra: It's not just for string players anymore

- ❖ The term orchestra can be defined as any performing body of diverse instruments
- ❖ Orchestra now is synonymous with symphony orchestra
- ❖ Orchestras vary in size and makeup
  - ❖ Has happened throughout history
  - ❖ String instruments are always the core
  - ❖ Eventually woodwinds, brass, and percussion have been added to the core instrumentation

# But, I'm a band geek!

- ❖ “Band” can refer to a variety of ensembles
  - ❖ Most rely on winds and percussion
- ❖ Wind band, concert band, marching band
- ❖ Jazz band
  - ❖ Might include reed section, brass, rhythm sections
- ❖ Rock band
  - ❖ Amplified guitars, synthesizers, percussion
  - ❖ Sometimes wind and brass instruments are added



# What is up with the person in front, back to the audience, waving their arms and dancing?

- ❖ Conductors have an important role, especially in larger ensembles
- ❖ Keeps time with conducting patterns
  - ❖ Instrumental conductors use a baton (stick)
  - ❖ Choral conductors don't use a baton unless an ensemble is accompanying
- ❖ Gestures aid interpretation of the music
  - ❖ Sometimes this can be distracting
- ❖ Concertmaster
  - ❖ First chair violinist
  - ❖ Standardizes the bow strokes of the strings

# Music is GREAT! I LOVE music!

## But, does it really serve a purpose?

- ❖ Sacred or secular
- ❖ Genre
  - ❖ General term concerning the overall character of a piece of music, what its function is, and its medium
  - ❖ Form (structure) plays into genre
- ❖ Context and aesthetics vary from culture to culture
  - ❖ Could be a preferred vocal timbre (nasal)
- ❖ Notation or oral transmission
  - ❖ Which is more precise?
  - ❖ Which is used more often?
- ❖ Cultivated or vernacular music
  - ❖ Lines between these are not always clear-cut

# Stylin'

- ❖ Style is the way an artwork is presented
  - ❖ Can also refer to the composer's personal manner of expression
  - ❖ What sets one artist apart from another
- ❖ Style has many components
  - ❖ The components join to create a sound that each culture recognizes as its own
    - ❖ Pitch
    - ❖ Time
    - ❖ Timbre
    - ❖ Expression

# Historical Music Periods

- ❖ Dates are not definite
  - ❖ Each period has its own musical characteristics
- ❖ Middle Ages/Medieval 400-1450
- ❖ Renaissance 1450-1600
- ❖ Baroque 1600-1750
- ❖ Classical 1750-1825
- ❖ Romantic 1825-1900
- ❖ 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Beyond 1900-present day



Writing about music



Writing about music is a lot like dancing  
about engineering...



# Describing music is HARD!

- ❖ What is usually said about a piece of music?
  - ❖ Exciting
  - ❖ Good beat
  - ❖ Woke me up
  - ❖ I didn't understand it
  - ❖ Boring
  - ❖ I haven't a clue

# So what should I write??

## Some things to consider

- ❖ Performing forces and genre
- ❖ Historical period
- ❖ Signposts
  - ❖ Prominent and important moments in the piece
- ❖ Organizational features
- ❖ Overall sound
- ❖ Musical conversation
- ❖ Mood
  - ❖ Objective and subjective



# Add some of the finer details

- ❖ Using correct terminology, describe the main melody or melodies
  - ❖ Conjunct or adjunct
  - ❖ Syllabic, neumatic, or melismatic
- ❖ Rhythm and meter
  - ❖ Simple or complex rhythm? Any syncopation?
- ❖ Tempo and affect, if any, on the rhythm
- ❖ Texture
  - ❖ Monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic

# Phew! Now put it all together

- ❖ ACTIVELY listen
- ❖ Take notes if you need to
- ❖ Listen for the parts as a whole and individually
- ❖ Write your review