



01 Jun 2019

Music Appreciation: Music of Latin America

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Recommended Citation

Francis, Lorie L., "Music Appreciation: Music of Latin America" (2019). *Course Materials*. 3.
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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
 - ❖ 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 7th note of the scale usually resolves to the 8th (or 1)
- ❖ Tonic (1st note of the scale) and dominant (5th 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
- ❖ 20th 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