

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Music Appreciation 1306, Week I, Part I

Music is the most universal language. Without words, it speaks directly to our minds and hearts.

Music is organized sound. Sound is a mental image created by the brain in response to vibrating molecules. The only information that our brain gets about the sound is based on wiggling in and out of our eardrum.

While playing the piano, keys are striking the strings, the vibration of strings displaces air molecules which start vibrating with the same frequency as strings. The eardrum responds to air molecules and transforms the information to inner ear and the brain.

In space, without air molecules to vibrate, the sound doesn't exist.

Composer

A vocation requiring expertise, talent and an observance of implicit or explicit rules to ensure that the music will serve the functions of its genre.

What Makes a Composer Great?

- a) Possessing a knowledge/mastery of music, theory, forms, instrumentation.
- b) Developing unique personal style of creating music.
- c) Revolutionizing existing forms and creating music in a new way.
- d) Having long-lasting influence on new generations of composers.
- e) Composing large number of works with high artistic standard.

Composition

A piece of music embodied in written form or the process by which composers create such pieces. In general, people making music follow a detailed and specific scenario. In Western art music this scenario is conveyed in written form.