

1.)

**Title:** Moro Lasso, al moi Dualo

**Composer:** Gesualdo

**Year of composition:** 1611

**Form:** Madrigal

**Question: What technique sets this form apart from others in the renaissance? Please provide an example (either from a real piece we heard in class or something you make up to illustrate the point) of how this technique works.**

One of the key techniques that sets the madrigal apart from other forms of music from the Renaissance is its use of chromaticism, or the use of notes outside of the diatonic scale. In the first movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, chromaticism is used to create a sense of drama and suspense. The opening melody portrays a chromatic descent in the strings, with each note being slightly lower than the previous one, creating a sense of dissonance and tension, as the listener expects the melody to resolve to a specific pitch, but instead it keeps descending.

2.)

**Title:** Agnus Dei in B Minor

**Composer:** Bach

**Year of composition:** 1749

**Form:** Mass

**Question: This composer is a very prominent musical figure. Briefly describe their contribution to music.**

Bach is considered one of the greatest composers in the history of classical music. He is known for his structured and technical compositions that feature complex and intricate harmonies. In addition to his compositional skills, Bach was also a highly accomplished performer. He was an impeccable organist, ultimately inspiring many future musicians like Mozart and Beethoven. Today, Bach's music is still widely performed and appreciated for its technical complexity and emotional depth.

3.)

**Title:** Concerto Grosso in G Minor

**Composer:** Corelli

**Year of composition:** Around 1710

**Form:** Concerto Grosso

**Question: Please describe the structure of this type of piece. How do the different parts of the ensemble interact with one another?**

Concerto grosso is composed of a small group of solo instruments (concertino) accompanied by a larger ensemble (ripieno). The structure typically includes three or four movements, with the first and last movements being fast and the middle movements being slow. In a concerto grosso, the concertino may play a melody that is then imitated or developed by the ripieno, or the concertino may also play emphasized solos while the ripieno provides accompaniment. Additionally, the concertino and ripieno may play together in ensemble sections, with the concertino playing a prominent role and the ripieno providing support and balance.

4.)

**Title:** Possente Spirito

**Composer:** Monteverdi

**Year of composition:** 1607

**Form:** Opera

**Question: The accompaniment and voice together in this piece are highly dramatic in nature and relies heavily on improvisation. Please provide the name of this vocal style and the method of instrumental performance and notation that allowed for players and singers to adapt to one another's performance choices.**

This vocal style is known as being recitative. It is characterized by its highly dramatic style, and is typically accompanied by a set of simple background chords. It is often used to advance the plot of an opera or other musical drama. The method of instrumental performance and notation that allowed for players and singers to adapt to one another's performance choices is called continuo. Continuo is a type of accompaniment in which a bass line is provided by a bass instrument, and the other instruments fill in the harmonies as

needed, allowing for flexibility and improvisation in the accompaniment, as the players can respond accordingly to the phrasing and dynamics of the singer.

5.)

**Title:** Prelude in A Minor

**Composer:** Elizabeth de la Guerre

**Year of composition:** 1660

**Form:** Suite

**Question: This piece is in a common multi-movement form. Please list the names of at least three of the common types of movements found in this type of work.**

Allegro: A fast movement characterized by a strong beat and energetic melody

Adagio: A slow movement with a relaxed tempo and a more pensive mood

Rondo: A movement characterized by a repeating main theme that is alternated with contrasting interludes

Finale: The last movement of a multi-movement work, typically fast and energetic, with a sense of resolution

6.)

**Title:** Winter (The Four Seasons)

**Composer:** Vivaldi

**Year of composition:** 1720

**Form:** Concerto

**Question: This track is part of a larger work. Please describe what sets it apart from other pieces of the same form.**

Winter is part of a larger work called The Four Seasons, which is a set of four violin concertos that depict the seasons of the year. Each concerto in The Four Seasons is set apart by its unique musical characteristics, which reflect the mood and atmosphere of the corresponding season. In this instance, Winter is set apart by its use of dissonant harmonies

and driving rhythms, which create a sense of cold, icy energy. Accompanied violin solos create the image of a frigid gust of wind throughout the piece as well as slipping and sliding on ice.

7.)

**Title:** Ave Maria Virgo Serena

**Composer:** Josquin de Prez

**Year of composition:** 1485

**Form:** Motet

**Question: This composer is associated with a major development in music technology. What was it and how did it change the landscape of music?**

Josquin des Prez is associated with the development of music printing technology, which revolutionized the way music was produced and distributed in the Renaissance period. Prior to the invention of music printing, music was primarily transmitted through handwritten manuscripts, which were time consuming and expensive to produce. The development of music printing allowed for music to be mass-produced and distributed more efficiently and inexpensively. This made it possible for more people to access and perform music, and it also allowed for composers to reach a wider audience. Thus, the impact of music printing on the landscape of music was significant, as it made it possible for music to be more widely disseminated and performed, which helped to spread new musical styles and ideas. It also made it easier for composers to have their works published and recognized, which helped to establish the profession of composition as a viable career path.

8.)

**Title:** When I am Laid in Earth

**Composer:** Henry Purcell

**Year of composition:** 1680

**Form:** Opera

**Question: What is the other major vocal/dramatic form to come out of England during this time period? Give an example of one of these pieces.**

The other major vocal/dramatic form to come out of England during this time period was the oratorio. Oratorios are large scale vocal works that are similar to operas, but they are typically performed in a concert rather than with costumes and staging. Oratorios often feature solo singers and choruses, and are usually based on religious or historical subjects. One example of an English oratorio from this time period is Handel's Messiah. This oratorio is based on the life and teachings of Christ, and it features solo melodies, choruses, and recitatives, producing a dramatic and expressive tone.