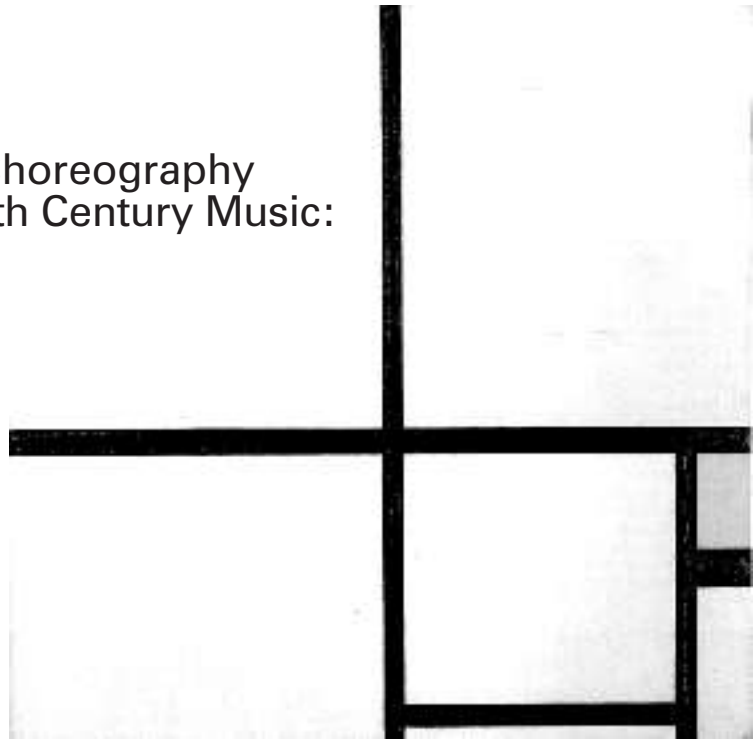


Dance 648: Music & Choreography

European Roots of 20th Century Music: the ISMS



Portrait of Gertrude Stein
Pablo Picasso, ca. 1922



Composition with Yellow Patch
Piet Mondrian, 1930

Gertrude Stein wrote:

"So the twentieth century is that, it is a time when everything cracks, where everything is destroyed, everything isolates itself, it is a more splendid thing than a period where everything follows itself. So then, the twentieth century is a splendid period, not a reasonable one in the scientific sense, but splendid. The phenonema of nature are more splendid than the daily events of nature, certainly, so then the twentieth century is splendid."

THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS:

Mini-mini overview of music history as relates to European "classical tradition"
(see handout for more detail)

I. Ancient World: Medieval.....Music in this tradition began with CHANT (singing) a capella
...no accompaniment...RELIGIOUS

II. Renaissance: 1420-1600..... vocal and instrumental with instruments that are FORERUNNERS
of modern ones...lutes, recorders....lots of imitation between parts...lots of counterpoint

III. Baroque: 1600-1750 Bach/ Vivaldi
ongoing rhythm....lots of counterpoint...

IV. Viennese Classical.....late 18th century Mozart/Haydn
simple, direct, elegant, lots of melody with background, supporting accompaniment, clear
form

V. Romanticism....19th century.. BALLET MUSIC!!.
drama, huge, lots of rubato and FEELING!

VI. 20th century

1. **Reaction** to excesses of 19th century ROMANTICISM. (lush harmonies, huge orchestras,
LONG pieces, beautiful soaring melodies, lots of "rubato" and feeling) to a **breakdown of
tonality** and the opposite of these ideas.

2. Continuation of NATIONALISM idea begun in 19th century: composers exploring their
cultural roots (including folk elements)

Russian: Alexander Scriabin/ Sergei Prokofiev/Dmitri Shostakovich/Igor Stravinsky
(also lived in Switzerland and France)

French: Claude Debussy/Maurice Ravel/Eric Satie/Francis Poulenc/Darius

Milhaud/Gabriel Faure/Edgard Varese /Oliver Messiaen

Czechoslovakian: Leo Janacek

Hungarian: Bela Bartok/ Zoltan Kodaly/Ernst Dohnanyi

German: Carl Orff/ Paul Hindemith/Kurt Weill

Finland: Jean Sibelius

Italian: Luigi Dallapiccola

Spanish: Manuel de Falla

English: Benjamin Britten/Frederick Delius/Ralph Vaughn Williams

Austrian: Alban Berg/Arnold Schoenberg/Anton Webern

American: Samuel Barber/ Aaron Copland/ Henry Cowell/Charles Ives/John

Cage/Harry Partch/Charles Griffes/Roy Harris/David Diamond/ Lou Harrison

Brazilian: Heitor Villa-Lobos

Mexican: Carlos Chavez/Silvestre Revueltas