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Week 5 Homework

**Define the following words using either my definition from the lecture, your own, a music dictionary or the Glossary.**

Themes

The musical basis upon which a composition is built. Usually a theme consists of a recognizable melody or a characteristic rhythmic pattern.

Thematic Development

Musical expansion of a theme achieved by varying its melodic outline, its harmony, or its rhythm.

Ostinato

A short melodic, rhythmic, or harmonic pattern that is repeated throughout an entire composition or some portion of a composition.

Absolute Music

Instrumental music composed purely as music, and not intended to represent or illustrate something else.

Sonata Allegro Form

The form generally used for the opening movement of the Classical sonata. It consists of an exposition, in which thematic material is presented for the first time, generally in two theme groups,the first one fast and the second slow, followed by the development, in which the thematic material presented in the exposition is developed, rearranged, transposed, and transformed, followed finally by the recapitulation, in which the thematic material is presented once again in its original form, usually followed by a short closing theme.

Theme and Variations

A style of composition that first presents a basic theme and then develops and alters that theme in successive statements.

Minuet and Trio

An A-B-A form (A = minuet; B = trio) in a moderate triple meter that is often the third movement of the Classical sonata cycle.

Rondo

Term referring to a form of composition in which the first section recurs after the second section is performed in an A-B-A style.

Classical Era

The musical period from the late 1700s to the mid 1820s, characterized by more rigidly defined musical forms, increased attention to instrumental music, and the evolution of the symphony

Divertimento

Term used to describe a style of light, short composition common in the Classical era, usually including between five and nine movements, and performed by a chamber ensemble or a soloist.

Serenade

Night music; a Classical instrumental genre that combines elements of chamber music and symphonic music.

Concerto

This term was originally applied to almost any kind of concerted music for voices and instruments of the Baroque era. Today it is taken to mean a composition that shows off a specific instrument (or instruments) with the orchestra used as accompaniment.

Symphony

A multi-movement composition with extra-musical content that directs the attention of the listener to a literary or pictoral association.

Piano Sonata

A **piano sonata** is a **sonata** written for a solo **piano**. **Piano sonatas** are usually written in three or four movements, although some **piano sonatas** have been written with a single movement.

String Quartet

A group of four solo performers (usually two violin performers, a viola performer, and a 'cellist) who perform together on stringed instruments as a chamber ensemble.

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| **Composer** | **Haydn** |
| **Title of Selection** | **Symphony No. 100 in G Major** |
| **Comments** | **Seems very thematic with many variations on that theme. At times this seems quite floaty and others extremely dramatic and somewhat dissonant. The dynamics are not subtle for sure—they almost slap the listener in the face.** |

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| **Composer** | **Mozart** |
| **Title of Selection** | **Piano Concerto No. 17** |
| **Comments** | **Flighty, and fun at first. I find it humorous that the piano isn’t involved in the intro. Very pretty piano! The piano feels playful and sounds like a stroll on a sunny spring day. Very fun to listen to the dynamics change slowly most of the time.** |

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| **Composer** | **Beethoven** |
| **Title of Selection** | **Symphony No. 5** |
| **Comments** | **What an opening! This opening seems to lead to a thematic expression throughout. This feels very adventurous and makes me think of beginning some kind of story.** |