

**MUS 111 – Music Appreciation
Online Class
Listening Essay 1 Topic 1**

Remember that there will be a total of four Listening Essay topics assigned and each student is expected to submit a total of two Listening Essays during the course of the semester for a possible 100 points each. If you'd like, you may submit a third Listening Essay for a possible 25 points extra credit. See the assignment listed as EXTRA CREDIT.

If you didn't write an essay on Listening Essay Topic #1 – Elements of Music, then you need to write on this topic for your first LISTENING ESSAY.

Please make note of the due date. You shouldn't write on the "Baroque Style," essay topic until you have completed the text and lecture material that covers "Part III – The Baroque Period." (Weeks/Module 5 – 7)

You will submit your work by either typing it into the field below, typing it into a word processor and pasting it in the field below, or you may type it in a word processor and submit that file as an attachment in the field below.

If you submit your essay early, I'll give it a preliminary grade and allow you to revise to essay to try to raise your grade on this assignment!

**Music 111 – Music Appreciation
Listening Essay Topic – Baroque Style
DUE on or before October 29, 2007**

For this assignment you will write a short essay COMPARING and CONTRASTING the following two musical examples from the CDs that accompany your text.

Henry Purcell's Dido's Lament from Dido and Aeneas CD 1 track 72 & 73

G.F. Handel's Ev'ry Valley... from Messiah CD 2 track 16

Think in terms of the musical elements discussed in class and in the text and give specific examples:

Pitch

Melody

stepwise or leaps,
staccato or legato,
simple or ornamented
Pitch Range– wide or narrow

Harmony

Major or minor (if you know),
consonance vs. dissonance

Dynamics

loud vs soft
crescendo/decrescendo or "terraced dynamics"

Tone Color

What instruments are used?
If there is singing, what voice types? (Soprano, alto, tenor, or bass?)

Duration (Rhythm)

Is there a strong sense of beat?
Can you tell what the meter is? (duple or triple)
Do you notice any syncopation?
Is the tempo steady or does it speed up and slow down?

Also consider the following:

Texture

MONOPHONIC, HOMOPHONIC, or POLYPHONIC?
Do you notice any changes in texture as the piece progresses?

Form

Quite often the listening outlines in the book will let you know the form of a particular musical example. Were you able to "hear the form" or structure of the piece?

Musical Genre

One of these examples features a short RECITATIVE followed by an ARIA while the other is an ARIA alone. What is the difference between aria and recitative?

Both of these pieces are from larger works. What type of work is each from? (Concerto Grosso, fugue, sonata, chorale, cantata, oratorio, opera, etc.)

Style

Both of these selections were composed during the "late" baroque period. Do you notice a difference in style from selections you know to be from the Renaissance or the "early" Baroque? Give some examples of this stylistic difference, if there is one. How might earlier arias and recitatives (by Monteverdi, for example) differ from those of the late Baroque.