

## **The Five W's of Music (and the H): What, Who, Why, Where, When and How**

**WHAT:** What is the style? What are the musical sounds?

- **Melody:** Contour, Character, Range, Phrasing, Motives
- **Texture:** Number of layers, Function of layers, Speed of layers, Timbres of layers, Call and response, Panning
- **Time:** Meter, Rhythm in each layer, Tempo, Swing, Syncopation, Motives
- **Miscellaneous,** Harmonic character, Dynamics, Articulation, Timbre, Text

**WHO:** Who are the people involved in this music as performers, contributors, and audience members

- Who are the performers?
  - What social group do they come from?
  - What restrictions on the performers are there?
  - What are the rules that we don't see that impact who gets to be a performer?
  - How are the performers trained?
- How are musicians trained?
  - Who trains them and how much time is spent in training?
  - Is the training given by one elite instructor to select individuals, or does everyone participate?
  - How much money does it take to get trained?
- Audience
  - Is the music created for an audience separate from the performers or is it fully participatory?
  - Who is the Intended audience today? Is this different than the audience of the music's origin? Is there a traditional audience versus a modern audience?
  - Is this music being played for a select community or is this music created for anybody who wants to listen?
  - Can the music be understood by everyone? Do you need to have familiarity with music in order to understand and appreciate it?

**Why:** Why is this music being made?

- Why is this music being made ?
- Why is this music important?
- Is it religious music? Does it fulfill any spiritual beliefs? Does it accompany ritual?
- Is it entertainment?
- Does the music pull a community together through participation?
- Does the music have a message?
- Is the purpose of this song today the same as it was when it was first performed?

**When:** When is the music being made?

- Is the music associated with specific hours or specific time frames like daytime or night time?
- Is the music associated with specific months? specific dates? Specific seasons?

**Where:** Where is the music being made?

- Is the music performed inside or outside of a building?
- How large of a space does the sound need to cover?
- What are the acoustical properties of the traditional location?
- Is the music being made in its original country or origin and in its original context or is the music being made in a new place and context?

**HOW:** How is the music being made and consumed? How do people involved behave? How do they move?

- How is the music being made? On which instruments?
- How is it consumed? With what objects (if any)?
- How do the performers and audience members behave? Is participation expected or allowed or forbidden?
- How does movement accompany the music? Is movement allowed? Is it expected?
- How do people move with the music?