THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC LISTENING ANAYLSIS

Title:	**Composer:**

PITCH

What is the pitch of the solo voice or instrument?

What is the melodic contour (shape) of the improvised solo?

Does it move by steps or leaps, does it move up or down?

Is the tonality major, minor, modal? Is there a change of key?

MELODY: An organised sequence of single notes.	
TONALITY	What scale is used? ☐ Major ☐ Minor ☐ Blues ☐ Other: _____
STRUCTURE	How many bars in each phrase? ☐ 2 ☐ 4 ☐ 8 ☐ other _____ Are the phrases ☐ arched ☐ spiky or ☐ a mixture? Are the cadences *(endings)* ☐ predictable or ☐ unpredictable? Does the melody move by ☐ step *(conjunct)* ☐ skip *(broken chord based)* ☐ leap *(disjunct)* ☐ chromatically or ☐ a mixture of _____ If a song, is it ☐ strophic *(verse/chorus)* or ☐ through-composed? Is there any ☐ repetition or ☐ imitation?
STYLE	Does the melody have ☐ vocal *(easy to sing)* or ☐ instrumental origins? What is the style? ☐ Jazz ☐ Rock ☐ Movie ☐ Folk ☐

	Other
HARMONY: The simultaneous sound of two or more notes.	
TONALITY	Are the chords ☐ major, ☐ minor or ☐ a mixture?
CHORD PROGRESSIONS	Are the chords ☐ dissonant *(clash)* or ☐ consonant *(they fit)*? Is there a ☐ 12 bar Blues, ☐ 16 bar pattern or ☐ other? Are the cadences *(endings)* ☐ perfect *(V-I)* ☐ imperfect *(I-V)* ☐ plagal *(IV-I)* or ☐ interrupted *(V-vi)* ? Is the Harmonic Rhythm *(rate of chord changes)* ☐ fast ☐ medium ☐ slow? Are there any modulations *(key changes)*? ☐ No ☐ Yes to this key: _____ What is the relationship between the old and new keys? _____ Is there a ☐ Tierce de Picardie *(a major 3rd in the final chord of a minor key)* ☐ drone *(sustained part - tonic and dominant)* ☐ Suspension ☐ ornaments

DURATION

What is the tempo?	
Does it change?	
If it changes, what does it change to?	
Are there many rhythmic ideas or just a few?	
How long or short are the sounds?	
Are there silences?	
Is the use of silence linked to a dramatic situation?	
What is the effect of silence to this dramatic situation?	
What rhythm patterns are featured?	

RHYTHM: The combinations of long, short, even or uneven sounds that convey the flow of music in time.	
METRE	Is the Time Signature: ☐ simple, ☐ compound or ☐ other Does the time signature change? ☐ No ☐ Yes to _____ Are there any cross rhythms *(two different time signatures)*? ☐ Yes ☐ No How many beats are there per bar? ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ other Are the phrases ☐ balanced *(equal in length)* or ☐ unbalanced?
NOTE VALUES	What notes are used? ☐ ♩ ☐ ♫ ☐ 𝅗𝅥 ☐ ♩. ☐ 𝅝 ☐ other Is there an anacrusis *(lead in or incomplete bar at the start)*? ☐ Yes ☐ No Is the piece ☐ Metrical *(on the beat)*, ☐ syncopated *(on the weak beats)* or a mixture ☐

	Is there any Rubato *(free of the beat)*? ☐ No ☐ Yes Are there any Polyrhythms *(two or more independent rhythms)*? ☐ Yes ☐ No Are there any repetitive patterns? ☐ Ostinato ☐ Loop ☐ Other ☐ No Is there any motivic development *(does the melody change)*? ☐ Yes ☐ No
TEMPO *(speed)*	☐ Presto *(very fast)* ☐ Allegro *(fast)* ☐ Vivace *(fast and lively* ☐ Allegretto *(moderately quick and cheerful)* ☐ Moderato *(moderately)* ☐ Andante *(at a moderate walking pace)* ☐ Adagio *(slowly* ☐ Lento *(broadly, slow)* ☐ Largo *(very slow)* ☐ Grave *(slow and serious)* Are there any changes in speed? ☐ No ☐ Yes: ☐ *accel* ☐ *rall*

TIMBRE

TONE COLOUR: The quality of the sound that is heard.

Strings using ☐ pick ☐ arco *(bowed)* ☐ pizzicato *(plucked)* ☐ pitch bend

☐ staccato ☐ mute ☐ legato ☐ double stopping *(playing 2 strings at once)*

☐ tremolo *(rapidly moving on 1 string)* ☐ violin ☐ viola ☐ cello ☐ double bass

☐ acoustic guitar ☐ electric guitar ☐ bass guitar ☐ banjo ☐ harp ☐ other

Reeds using ☐ pitch bend ☐ staccato ☐ legato ☐ mute ☐ oboe ☐ clarinet
☐ bassoon ☐ saxophone ☐ harmonica ☐ pipe organ ☐ piano accordion

☐ button accordion

Brass using ☐ pitch bend ☐ staccato ☐ legato ☐ mute ☐ bugle ☐ cornet

☐ trumpet ☐ trombone ☐ euphonium ☐ tuba

Wind using ☐ pitch bend ☐ staccato ☐ legato ☐ flutter tonguing

☐ recorder pan pipes ☐ piccolo ☐ flute

Electronic: ☐ synthesiser ☐ keyboard ☐ vocal ☐ sample

Percussive Tuned: ☐ piano ☐ harpsichord ☐ other

Percussive Untuned: ☐ drums ☐ cymbals ☐ other

Vocals: ☐ soprano ☐ alto ☐ tenor ☐ bass ☐ boy ☐ male choir

☐ Falsetto *(male head voice)* ☐ girl ☐ female choir ☐ SATB choir

☐ scat *(use of nonsense sounds)*

☐ melisma *(melodic flow of notes sung to single syllable)*

SUBJECTIVE	☐ dark ☐ sombre ☐ mysterious ☐ warm ☐ bright
	☐ clear ☐ liquid ☐ nasal ☐ harsh ☐ Other

PERFORMING MEDIA: The means of transforming music into actual sound through various combinations of instrumental and vocal performance.

SOLOS	**Vocal** Female: ☐ girl ☐ Soprano ☐ Alto Male: ☐ boy ☐ Tenor
	☐ Bass ☐ A Capella *(unaccompanied singing)*
	Instrumental ☐ accompanied ☐ unaccompanied
SMALL ENSEMBLES	☐ Duet ☐ Trio ☐ Quartet ☐ Quintet ☐ marching band
	☐ Jazz band ☐ Rock band

LARGE ENSEMBLES	☐ choir ☐ opera chorus ☐ chamber orchestra ☐ string orchestra ☐ symphony orchestra ☐ studio orchestra ☐ big bands ☐ brass band
CULTURAL	☐ Australian ☐ Asian ☐ African ☐ European folk ☐ Indian

DYNAMICS AND EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

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How loud or soft is the music?	
Does the dynamic level change?	
How does it change?	
Are the changes sudden or gradual?	
Is the use of silence linked to a dramatic situation?	
What is the effect of silence to this dramatic situation?	
What techniques does the soloist use to add to the expressive quality of the music? *For example, are notes played legato or staccato, or accented; does the music slow down or pause; is the melody line ornamented?*	

DYNAMICS Varying degrees of volume in the performance of music.

☐ *pp* ☐ *p* ☐ *mp* ☐ *mf* ☐ *f* ☐ *ff*

Are there any changes of volume? ☐ No ☐ Yes:

☐ cresc ⎯⎯⎯⎯ ☐ dim ⎯⎯⎯⎯

☐ ♩. ☐ ♩̣ ☐ ♩' ☐ ♩‾ ☐ ♩> ☐ ♩♩ ☐ *sfz* ☐ ♪ ☐ *tr*

☐ ∼ ☐ ∼ ☐ ↯ ☐ ⌢

FORM

How is the material of the solo organised?	
What musical ideas or motifs feature?	
Is there repetition and contrast within the solo or main theme?	
Are repetitions exact or varied?	
Does the solo include riffs or ostinatos?	

FORMAL STRUCTURE (FORM): The organisation and structure of a composition and the interrelationships of musical events within the overall structure.	
IDENTIFICATION	How many main themes? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4
STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS	How many sections are there? ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ Introduction ☐ Coda ☐ Intro ☐ Verse ☐ Chorus ☐ Bridge ☐ Improvisation ☐ Outro
LABEL THE FORM	☐ Binary *(AB)* ☐ Ternary *(ABA)* ☐ Rondo *(ABACA)* ☐ Minuet and Trio ☐ Theme and Variations ☐ Rondo *(ABACA)* ☐ Cyclic *(repeated)* ☐ Canon ☐ Sonata ☐ Strophic *(Popular song: verse/chorus)* ☐ Through-composed *(changes regularly)*

TEXTURE

What layers of sounds are heard and what role/s do they serve (for example, melody, countermelody, harmony, bass line)?

Does the texture change?

How?

TEXTURE: A cross-section or side-on view which describes the layers of sound in a piece of music.	
LAYERS OF SOUND	☐ Monophonic *(single voice/part)* ☐ Unison *(more than one person singing the same part)* ☐ Tutti *(the whole orchestra plays together, or the whole choir sings together)* ☐ Homophonic *(melody with chords)* ☐ Polyphonic *(one part starting at different times, like a round)* ☐ Heterophonic *(main melody, another melody which parallels it, but not exactly)* ☐ Descant or Counter Melody *(a second melody playing alongside the main melody)* ☐ Monophonic *(single voice/part)*
DENSITY OF SOUND	☐ rich ☐ thick ☐ full ☐ dense ☐ light and airy ☐ sparse/thin Do the textures change? ☐ Yes ☐ No

NOTES