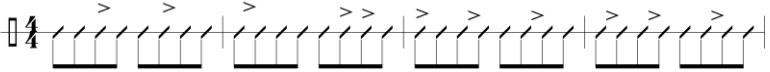


Extended Classroom Activity

Introduction to Contemporary Music

	Learning Focus	Activity
What is Contemporary Music?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - music compositions composed in 20th century - emphasize on individual creativity, include composition ideas and presentations 	
Characteristics of Contemporary Music:	<p>Tonality & Articulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - abandon tonality and in favor of atonality - exploration of un-usual sonority - emphasize on noise-like percussive sounds - extensive use of dissonance - uncommon playing techniques become normal - emphasize on atmospheric building - invent new forms of musical notation, graphic notation for example 	<p>Research the ideas to the following pieces. Listen to them and discuss their sonority, tonality, musical notation and atmosphere.</p> <p>a. “Ionisation” by Edward Varése http://youtu.be/TStutMsLX2s</p> <p>b. “Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima” by Krzysztof Penderecki http://youtu.be/HilGthRhWP8</p>
	<p>Instrumentation & Orchestral setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - combination of instruments are upon composer’s imagination <p>E.g. “Music for Strings Percussion and Celesta”</p>	<p>a. Compare and contrast the instrumentation of “Music for Strings Percussion and Celesta” by Béla Bartok to Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67 by Ludwig van Beethoven.</p> <p>b. Listen to the 2nd movement (7’24-8’25) from “Music for Strings</p>

	<p>by Béla Bartok has a special setting required by the composer. There are two groups of strings sitting side by side plus other players. This setting makes a surround sound effect.</p>	<p>Percussion and Celesta” by Béla Bartok and find out the antiphonal effect designed by the composer. http://youtu.be/0oOYSbkCWCA</p>
	<p>Rhythm & Tempo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emphasize on irregularity and unpredictability - change meter frequently <p>E.g. Arvo Pärt composed his “Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten” with the same melody. Start playing from high register to low register, each group of instrument slower its tempo in the ratio of 1:2:4:8:16. It means double basses are playing 1/16 tempo to violins. In addition, each group plays soft to loud in the middle and softest near the end. It creates a spiral effect of tension and relaxation throughout the piece.</p>	<p>a. Clap the following pattern and discuss the characteristics of the pattern.</p>  <p>b. Listen to “The Rite of Spring” (3’30-4’00) by Igor Stravinsky and identify its meter. http://youtu.be/Ceglu9msRbo</p> <p>c. Listen to “Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten” by Arvo Pärt and pay attention to the spiral like tension and relaxation created. http://youtu.be/f3B4YWCj1a4</p>