

# MUSIC EVOLUTION (20<sup>th</sup> Century Developments)

Music in the 20<sup>th</sup> century went through many different changes, and many different styles of music have existed, and even been developed at the same time. Before the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, different types or styles of music were developed after each other as composers added to or changed the ideas of music composed before.

## SERIALIST MUSIC – 12 TONE MUSIC

- Uses all the twelve notes of the **chromatic** scale.
- **Atonal** – A complete lack of key, the composer does not follow usual rules of chords and tunes.
- **Disjunct** – sounds like a series of random unsingable notes
- **Very complex rhythms**
- **Lack of obvious meter OR lack of obvious beats per bar**
- **Extremely high and low pitch notes – wide range of pitch**
- Much use of **changes of Tempo & Dynamics**.
- **Dissonant / Clashing Notes / Note Clusters**– using notes that clash or sound horrible together.
- Important composers of this style – **Webern & Berg**.

## **EXPRESSIONISM – Music to make people think rather than for people to enjoy.**

- Can have a tune, might not. Can use any kind of sound required.
- Aleatoric - means that there is an element of chance in the music, the performers decide important factors such as pitch of note, or even what notes to play.
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- **Disjunct** – sounds like a series of random unsingable notes
- **Very complex rhythms**
- **Lack of obvious meter OR lack of obvious beats per bar**
- **Extremely high and low pitch notes – wide range of pitch**
- **Dissonant** – using **notes that clash** or sound horrible together.
- **Note clusters**
- **Sprechgesang / Sprechstimme** – **literally means singing in a speaking style.** (The singer sounds like they are wailing.)
- Composers of this style – **Schoenberg, Penderecki.**
- **Disjunct melody** – a melody that is really odd & almost impossible to sing, like pressing random keys on a piano.

# MINIMALISM – MUSIC MADE FROM SMALL IDEAS

- Music is written using repeated use of the same idea.  
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(GET IT!!!)
- **Minimalist**
- There is usually a complete lack of a main melody, the music is made up of short phrases and sustained notes – 4 to 8 beats long OR is very rhythmic and complicated.
- Uses electronic & traditional instruments.
- **Repetitive**
- **Loops**
- **Very small changes** as the piece progresses.
- Music composed from small ideas or phrases called **cells**.
- Usually rhythmic
- Can be hypnotic in its use of repeated ideas.
- Taped voices can be used.
- Use of synthesised sounds may be used.

# ELECTRONIC

- Many 20<sup>th</sup> Century composers used **electronic** systems and equipment in their work. These are the main methods.
- **I.C.T.**
- **Tape** – obviously what you already know about tape recording.
- **Multi-track tape recording** – Method of recording many **different sounds on top of each other**.
- **Loop** – using the **same bit of recorded material many times over**, comes literally from the 60s when they used to stick tape together in loops so that it continually went through tape players.
- **Sampling** – computerised system of recording sounds so that they can be used many times over.
- **Sequenced** – Using computers to record different tracks.
- **Synthesised sounds** – man made sounds – **computer made sounds - Synthesizer**
- **Amplified / amplification**
- **Distortion** – method of **altering the sound** – most often used in **guitar** playing.
- **Reverb** – man made **echo** in the sounds.
- **Electric Drum Kit**

