Student Study Outline

Chapter 44: American Music

1. What is an “American” Style?
   1. Which famous composer raised the question of what was meant by an “American” musical style?
   2. What has been the defining feature of American music?
   3. What was the first book published in America?
      1. This book contained the music of settlers from which country?
   4. What is shape-note singing, and why was it invented?
   5. What types of popular music were common by the nineteenth century?
   6. What were minstrel shows?
      1. A famous minstrel show composer was Stephen Foster (1826-1864). What are some of his most famous song?
   7. Civil War military bands were used to raise morale and rally the troops.
      1. John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) was one of the most celebrated American bandmasters. What is his most famous composition?
   8. Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829-1869) won international acclaim as a virtuoso on which instrument?
   9. Edward MacDowell (1860 – 1908) used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ melodies in his music.
2. Amy Beach (1867-1944)
   1. Amy Cheney Beach experienced synesthesia. What does that mean?
   2. Why couldn’t Amy pursue a career as a professional musician?
   3. Listening Map: Romance for Violin and Piano, Op. 23 by Beach
      1. What is the form of this piece?
      2. How is the A section different from the B section?
3. Charles Ives (1874-1954)
   1. Why can Ives be described as a musical non-conformist?
   2. Unlike most composers we have studied thus far, Ives had a career outside of music. What was his job?
   3. What is the controversy surrounding Ives music?
   4. Listening Map: *General William Booth Enters into Heaven* (1914) by Ives
      1. What is the form of this piece?
      2. This piece uses different musical effects to suggest specific images, including the use of different instruments. How does Ives imitate the sounds of these different instruments on the piano?
4. William Grant Still (1895-1978)
   1. What was the dilemma facing American composers of modern classical music?
   2. Still was the first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_composer to write symphonies and operas performed by major institutions in the US and abroad.
   3. What was Still’s ambition as a composer?
   4. Listening Map: *Afro-American Symphony*, Third Movement (*Humor*) (1930) by Still
      1. How does this piece combine elements of the classical tradition and the blues?
      2. The four-note motive in the main theme has been called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ theme.
5. Making Connections: The Harlem Renaissance and the “New Negro”
   1. In the 1920s/30s Harlem became the center of a new flowering of African-American arts.
   2. What is *The New Negro*?
   3. Name a musician associated with the Harlem Renaissance.
6. George Gershwin (1898-1937)
   1. What was Tin Pan Alley?
   2. What are some of Gershwin’s most famous song?
   3. Gershwin was known for writing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a uniquely American art form influenced by the light operettas of Europe.
   4. How did Gershwin combine popular and classical music in his concert works?
7. Making Connections: *Rhapsody in Blue*: An Icon of American Music
   1. Commissioned by Paul Whiteman, an American bandleader and arranger, who asked Gershwin for a “jazz concerto” for piano and orchestra.
   2. How did Gershwin find inspiration for *Rhapsody in Blue*?
   3. Which part of *Rhapsody in Blue* is improvised?
8. Listening Map: “Summertime,” from *Porgy and Bess* (1935) by Gerswin
   1. How did Gershwin prepare to write this opera?
   2. What techniques from traditional European opera are found in this “folk opera”?
   3. The melody of “Summertime” is based on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ scale.
   4. What is scat singing?
9. Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
   1. Copland’s early compositions incorporated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and other American musical idioms.
   2. What are Copland’s best-known ballet scores?
   3. Listening Map: *Appalachian Spring* (1944), Section 7: Variations on the Shaker melody, “Simple Gifts” by Copland
      1. Copland wrote this ballet for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
      2. How does this piece make an “authentic American statement”?