

# Listening Journal/Activity Framework

## General Observations

- What do you **notice**? (Describe without judgment: "I notice...")
- What is the **title** of the piece, who is the **composer**, and **performing ensemble**?
- Have you **heard** this piece before? YES/NO
- **When** do you *think* this piece was written?
- What **genre** would you classify this piece?
- Is the performance **live** or **studio recorded**?

## Performance Style/Interpretation

- What **instruments** or **voices** do you hear in the listening example? How many?
- Is this an **original** work, a **cover**, or **inspired** by another work?
- **When** do you *think* this song was performed?
- How do the performers use **breathing** and **phrasing** to enhance the performance?
- How do the performer(s) **movements** and **facial expressions** contribute to the performance?

## Musical Elements

- **Tempo** - the speed of the music
- **Dynamics** - different levels of volume, from soft (p) to loud (f)
- **Pitch** - the way in which notes appear high or low in relation to one another
- **Rhythm** - the length of certain notes, from short to long
- **Melody** - the 'tune', created by combining rhythm and pitch
- **Harmony** - when different pitches are played together at the same time to form chords
- **Form** – the different sections in the song
- **Texture** - the ways in which different lines of music interweave
- **Timbre** - the sound qualities of different voices and instruments

## Personal Response

- How does the music make you **feel**?
- What do you think the song is **about**?
- What **emotions** do you feel as you respond to this work?
- What does it **remind** you of? (What memory, experience, story, other music does this trigger? There are no wrong answers or associations.)
- Draw a **scene** or a **design** for which this is the soundtrack.
- What **questions** does it raise for you? ("I wonder...")

## Music Vocab Terms

- **A cappella** - singing without instrumental accompaniment
- **Accelerando** - with increasing speed
- **Accent** - An emphasis or "punch" at the beginning of a musical sound.
- **Accompaniment** - a musical part that supports other parts
- **Beat/Pulse** - Regular pattern within a bar or measure.
- **Chord** - When two or more notes or pitches are sounded simultaneously a chord is created.
- **Cadence** - a sequence of chords that brings an end to a phrase
- **Crescendo** - Meaning growing, as in a swelling of sound, or becoming louder.
- **Decrescendo/Diminuendo** - Getting softer; the opposite of crescendo.
- **Harmony** - The simultaneous combination of pitches, especially when blended into chords that are pleasing to the ear.
- **Ostinato** - a repeated phrase
- **Phrase** - a musical sentence
- **Song** - piece of music with words