

Questions to ask yourself when listening to music

1. When was the music written and produced?
2. What events were happening in the world at the time the music was created?
3. Where is the music located?
4. How is the location significant?
5. What is the subject matter?
6. Who is the artist?
7. What is/was this artist known for?
8. What elements are prominent throughout the piece?
9. Where can you hear movement, change, development, etc.?
10. How does the piece feel balanced or unbalanced?
11. Where are the areas of high or low dynamics?
12. Which instruments do you hear?
13. What medium was it recorded on?
14. What equipment would have been used to record it?
15. What challenges did the artist face in creating it?
16. How would you represent it as a painting (or other art form: sculpture, collage, etc.)?
17. Is the style of the piece narrative, abstract, introspective or something else?
18. Would the music have the same impact if it were done in a different style? Why or why not?
19. What instruments do you hear? What kind of energy do they have?
20. Is the texture smooth or rough (or something else)? How is this important?
21. What is the music's scale or is it smaller/bigger? How does this change the way you feel?
If it were bigger or smaller, would it change its impact?
22. What do you think the artist was feeling?
23. How does it make you feel?
24. What emotions are captured in the piece?
25. What parts of the music make you feel the way you do?
26. Does the music bring to mind any of your own life events or memories?
27. Has your opinion changed after listening to the music multiple times?