

Music Appreciation 8 Final Project

Your final project for this class, in place of a final exam, involves writing a short paper (approx. 600-800 words) that *thoroughly* answers ONE of the following questions. You may choose any question you wish to answer.

This paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, 26 May 2005. **There are no exceptions to this due date.** If you wish, you may turn in your paper early in person, or electronically to ochsa@solscope.com as a text (.TXT), portable document (.PDF) or Microsoft Word document (.DOC).

1. Explain the importance of Franz Josef Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig van Beethoven in the development of the two musical forms known as the Symphony and the String Quartet. What are these forms? How did they develop? What major contributions did these composers make?
2. Define and describe the three “periods” of Beethoven's composing life. How are they different? What pieces are associated with each period? How is Beethoven important in the transition of Classical to Romantic music?
3. Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, George Gershwin, and Leonard Bernstein are all American composers of the 20th century. What are the defining characteristics of “American” music during this time period, and what are some examples of pieces by these four composers that demonstrate those characteristics? What makes the music that these people write “American?”
4. Identify and describe the characteristics of all of the regular orchestral instruments, including piano. Discuss them by family type: strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion. Focus on the use of the instrument, although a bit of history (especially concerning instruments that have changed over time a lot) is also acceptable.

BONUS: The Junior Conservatory String Orchestra is performing a piece on their Monday, 16 May 2005 7:30pm concert by English composer Edward Elgar, the Serenade for Strings Op. 20. Attend the concert and/or write a half page summary of your impressions of the work (“What does it sound like?” “How is it put together?” “What kind of music is it?”).