

Describing music using MAD T-SHIRT

MELODY

ASCENDING OR DESCENDING?
HIGH OR LOW PITCHED?
WIDE OR NARROW RANGE?
MOVING IN LEAPS/STEPS/SKIPS?
SCALES:
MAJOR/MINOR/BLUES/CHROMATIC/MODAL/ATONAL?
DEVICES:
REPETITION/MOTIFS/SEQUENCE/O-STINATO?
ORNAMENTS?

ARTICULATION

HOW ARE THE NOTES BEING PLAYED?
STACCATO – SHORT AND DETACHED?
LEGATO – SMOOTHLY AND CONNECTED?
ACCENTED NOTES?
PIZZICATO – PLUCKED WITH FINGERS?
ARCO – PLAYED WITH THE BOW?
SLURRED?

DYNAMICS

HOW LOUD OR SOFT IS THE MUSIC?
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE VOLUME?
pp – PIANISSIMO
p – PIANO
mp – MEZZO PIANO
mf – MEZZO FORTE
f – FORTE
ff – FORTISSIMO
CRESCENDO/DIMINUENDO?
SFORZANDO?

TEXTURE

HOW ARE THE INDIVIDUAL PARTS OF A PIECE WORKING TOGETHER?
THICK OR THIN? COMPLEX OR SIMPLE?
MONOPHONIC/POLYPHONIC/HOMO PHONIC/HETEROPHONIC?
MELODY & ACCOMPANIMENT?
COUNTERMELODY?
PARALLEL/CONTRARY MOTION?
UNISON? DRONE/PEDAL NOTE?
CONTINUO? CALL & RESPONSE?

STRUCTURE

HOW MANY SECTIONS IN THE PIECE AND IN WHAT ORDER?
WHAT IS THE FORM OF THE PIECE? BINARY – AB? TERNARY – ABA? RONDO – ABACADA?
SONATA? CONCERTO? THEME AND VARIATION? RITORNELLO?
POP MUSIC – VERSE? CHORUS?
MIDDLE 8? BRIDGE? PRE-CHORUS? INTRO/OUTRO? SOLO?
12 BAR BLUES?

HARMONY

MAJOR OR MINOR KEY?
DIATONIC OR CHROMATIC?
CONSONANT/DISSONANT?
KEY CHANGES/MODULATION
CADENCES: PERFECT; PLAGAL; IMPERFECT; INTERRUPTED?
HARMONIC RHYTHM – DO CHORDS CHANGE SLOWLY OR QUICKLY?
IS THERE A PARTICULAR SEQUENCE E.G. I – IV – V

INSTRUMENTS

BRASS –
TRUMPET/HORN/TROMBONE/TUBA. STRINGS –
VIOLIN/VIOLO/CELLO/DOUBLE BASS. WOODWIND –
PICCOLO/FLUTE/CLARINET/OBOE/BASSOON. PERCUSSION –
TIMPANI/CHIMES/CYMBALS. PIANO/HARPSICHORD/ORGAN.
GUITAR/ELECTRIC BASS/DRUMS/VOCALS/SYNTHS/LOOPS.
SITAR/TAMBURA/TABLA/BOUZO UKI/O'UD/DOUMBK/DJEMBE/DUNDUN/SURDO/TAMBOURIN/DHOL/RIQ/STEEL DRUMS.

RHYTHM

DURATION – LONG OR SHORT
NOTES? PULSE/BEAT.
SEMIQUVERS/QUAVERS/CROTCHETS/MINIMS/SEMIBREVES?
SYNCOPATION? DOTTED
RHYTHMS? TRIPLETS?
CROSSRHYTHM/POLYRHYTHM?
CHAAL/TALA/WAZN.
UPBEAT/ANACRUSIS? RESTS?
PAUSES?
TIED NOTES?

TIME/TEMPO

REGULAR OR IRREGULAR
METRE? SIMPLE OR COMPOUND
METRE? SIGNATURE – 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, 12/8, 5/4, 7/8 ETC?
TEMPO – FAST OR SLOW?
LARGO, MODERATO, ANDANTE, ALLEGRO, PRESTO,
ACCELLERANDO, RALLENTANDO,
RUBATO? SPEEDING UP/SLOWING DOWN?