

Musique concrète

- ▶ This is an experimental technique of composition using recorded sounds as raw material. This involves using everyday sounds, distorted in various ways, to create music. Live, it becomes an exercise in mixing together unexpected sounds into some sort of form while studio musique concrete uses complex tape manipulations to create the effect.
- ▶ The fundamental principle of musique concrète lies in the assembling of various natural sounds recorded on tape (or, originally, on disks) to produce a montage of sound. The sounds selected and recorded may be modified in any way desired—played backward, cut short or extended, subjected to echo-chamber effects, varied in pitch etc.

▶ The Olde Man

Schaeffer - Apostrophe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkHo7KiY-TI>

Musique concrete is heard at the start of Pink Floyd - *Money*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpbbualA3Ds>

World Music

Popular music originating from or influenced by non-Western musical traditions and often having a danceable rhythm. e.g.

Indian

Latin American

African

Chinese

Japanese

Indonesian

20/21st Century classical Music

Impressionism

This is a term borrowed from a style of painting used by a group of instruments – mostly French – known as *Impressionists*.

They aimed for a greater naturalism in painting, and were particularly interested in depicting the effects of light and atmosphere.

To achieve this, they used dabs of bright colour and rather than producing a “real”, hard-edged effect, as in a photograph, they aimed to give an impression, such as the eye might take in a single glance.

Artists include Monet, Renoir.

Key Features:

- discord
- atonal
- irregular time signatures
- cluster
- glissando
- harmonics
- whole tone scale (Impressionistic music)



20th / 21st Century - Impressionism

- ▶ Chords (esp. chromatic chords are often used for their expressive “colour” effects – rather than as part of a harmonic progression.
- ▶ Discords may merge into further discords. Chords move in PARALLEL motion – creating a blurred effect
- ▶ The use of **WHOLE TONE scale**. (A scale consisting purely of whole tones with no semitones)

Debussy Voiles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVV0jkZC4jI>

Improvisation on Whole Tone Scale

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jadn620w0VY>



- ▶ Exploration of unusual combinations of timbres, fluid rhythms, shimmering textures, subtle effects of light and shade. Use of woodwind – flutes, oboes, clarinets and horns/ harp etc or solo piano. The music, though carefully structured, avoids hard clear-cut outline, suggesting rather than stating

Debussy L'après midi d'un faune

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7rtlmnDkEc>

Debussy La Mer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUFpcPEcwTo>

Key Features:

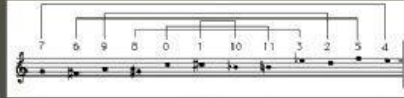
- discord
- changing time signatures
- glissando (e.g. on harp)
- Parallel movement of chords
- whole tone scale



LIVEWORKSHEETS

20th/21st Century Music - ATONAL MUSIC (ATONALITY)

In atonal music every note of the CHROMATIC scale is of equal importance and there is no pull towards any particular tonic note.
There is no sense of tonality or key in atonal music.



Schoenberg Piano Concerto
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEY9lmC2blc>

Schoenberg: Verklärte Nacht
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-pVz2LTakM>

Atonality means
"without
tonality".



Webern, Five movements for string quartet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELAKF8Zx0mg>

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- discord
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- cluster
- glissando
- harmonics