STUDY GUIDE

- Today the public commonly refers to “classical music” as a single genre, usually meaning orchestra/string/instrumental music, the public’s perception of classical covers a vast number of styles.

-In the twentieth century we experienced incredible accomplishment but we also dealt with astonishing violence.

-The defining feature of twentieth century music is the lack of any central defining feature.

-Twentieth century composers represent an enormous range of tastes, skills, and styles.

-Unlike earlier eras where one style ruled, the twentieth century saw no single dominate style. (this carries over today with lots of tastes and preferences)

-With so many styles to choose from, many composers chose to work in multiple styles.

-Twentieth century music starts in the late nineteenth century with the development of impressionism.

-Define impressionism: a style of composition (associated with Debussy) in which clarity of structure and theme is subordinate to harmonic effects, characteristically using the whole-tone scale.

-Debussy is credited my many historians as being the creator of impressionism music.

-Impressionism is all about suggesting a mood or subject using musical tones. It’s a lulling kind of music that slowly surges forward and back, without distinct cadences or climaxes.

-Chromaticism becomes more and more common as a musical form in the twentieth century, not just intervals on the scale.

-Define Chromaticism: Music relating to or using notes not belonging to the diatonic scale of the key in which a passage is written.

-Chromaticism ignores the traditional scale, having no underlying tone base and is referred to as atonal.

-Define atonal: not written in any key or mode

-The composer Schoenberg introduces a new style referred to as 12-Note Method.

-Define 12-Note Method: the 12 notes of the chromatic scale are used once each in a predetermined order called tone row.

-Serialism is a method in which pitches, rhythms, and dynamics are all arranged in a predetermined fashion.

-The Indeterminacy form left much of the music to chance. It reduced the role of the composer as the controller of the sounds the music would produce. In many cases colors and symbols would be used in the place of standard notations.

-Define Polytonality: the simultaneous use of two or more keys in a musical composition

-Define Microtonality: an interval smaller than a semitone.

-The style known as Mimimalism arose in response to the increasing complexity of both classical and popular music forms. These compositions are based on simple melodic motifs repeated numerous times with slowly revolving modifications. (pop goes the weasel)

-Musique Concréte: French engineer Pierre Schaeffer began to use the newly developed magnetic tape recorder to record various everyday sounds and then combine those sounds in various ways.

- Musique Concréte marked the beginning of what we now know as electronic music.

-Define Electronic music: music performed using synthesizers and other electronic instruments.

-The American Century is a characterization of the 20th century as being largely dominated by [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) in political, economic and cultural terms.

-The composers Copeland and Ives introduce themes from American folk and religious music into the classical forms creating a new American Nationalistic Movement.

- George Gershwin was a US composer and pianist. He achieved success in 1919 with the song “Swanee” and went on to compose many successful songs and musicals, as well as Rhapsody in Blue (1924) and An American in Paris (1928) for orchestra and an opera.

-Define Ragtime: music characterized by a syncopated melodic line and regularly accented accompaniment, evolved by black American musicians in the 1890s and played on the piano.

-Debussy 1862-1918 was born and raised in France. He was a talented pianist from a early age. Entered the Paris conservatory and studied music at age 11.

-Igor Stravinsky 1882-1971 was a Russian born composer and one of the most widely performed and influential composers of the twentieth century. His famous “Rite Of Spring” ballet was so controversial (with it’s rhythms and harmonies) it caused a mass riot in the theatre.

-Aaron Copland 1900-1990 was known as the “dean of American composers”, born in Brooklyn his musical voice was the voice of rural America, incorporating simple harmonies and folk tunes.