

Music Intensive – Winter Quarter 2013

Week Two Seminar Paper Prompt

This assignment continues your thinking and writing about the Romantic period (1815 – 1910 C.E.). Take the following prompt and consider it carefully as you complete this week's listening. Your written response is your ticket to the seminar; please bring one page, typed, with your name and date in the upper right corner. Note that your listening assignment is specifically focused on Beethoven's Symphony #6 this week.

How does multiple listening to the same movement or composition affect your experience? Focusing specifically on Beethoven's Symphony #6, listen to the whole thing once. Then stick with a single movement of your choice for a period of time, listening multiple times. When you react, what is happening musically? Pay specific attention to key/modulation, rhythm, timbre, texture, and form. TAKE NOTES about the timing so that you can return to the same moments over and over, and note how your experience changes over time as you become much more familiar with the movement. Listen to the movement in the context of the entire symphony again.

Now, pay attention to what is called "musical affect." Begin your essay by saying which movement you chose. Write a chronological sketch of it: What musical events happen at what point during the movement? Now describe your listening experience the first time, then describe it the third or fourth time, and go all the way to the eighth or tenth time you hear it. How did it change? Complete your essay by considering this now very familiar movement in the larger context of the symphony.

Note: Seminars are Tuesday mornings between 9 and 11. Sometimes these seminars will include important information about music theory to follow up on Monday afternoon presentations; other times they will focus on the week's reading and writing. Be prepared for both by bringing the reading, a writing implement, and both writing and sheet music paper. If there is a written assignment, bring it. Choosing to e-mail it later increases the chances of it being lost (or simply not completed) approximately a hundredfold.

Andrea's seminars are held in Seminar II, room C3109. Sean's seminars are held in Seminar II, room A2107.