

Historical Map Assignment

Music of the 20th/21st Centuries

Juilliard – Spring 2014

Dr. Beau Bothwell

The purpose of this assignment is to create a musical map, guiding a reader/listener through a series of way stations to arrive at a piece of music from the 20th or 21st centuries. This final piece should be something that an average listener might consider remote, inaccessible, or difficult. (i.e. The kind of place that you would need a map to get to.)

Imagine you are writing for an audience of people who are musically savvy but unfamiliar with the specific music you have chosen. Your task is to trace some historical or musical idea through a series of pieces or artworks (at least four, no more than six), culminating in a discussion and analysis of your chosen piece. At the end of your essay, having listened to the pieces that you specified, your reader should be able to hear the “difficult” piece with a new appreciation.

There are multiple ways to think about this project. You could attack it from a purely aesthetic standpoint, choosing pieces that will gradually prepare your reader’s ears for the final music; you could also choose a series of pieces that all deal with similar philosophical or compositional ideas, so that the final piece is heard as the most recent attempt to deal with a particular issue.

We will discuss some examples in class, but feel free to email me at any point as you are coming up with a topic.

Minimum required bibliography:

- Specific score editions or recordings for each piece referenced.
- At least one biographical reference for the featured composer/performer.
- At least two citations for the broad idea you are tracing through the other pieces.

As a reminder, *all* quotations, facts, ideas, and language you get from existing sources must be properly cited. The above list represents the minimum possible bibliography, but I expect that most of you will need to cite sources beyond this list.

Play List/Bibliography + One-Page Sample: In class, Tuesday, April 22nd

Presentations: TBA, final two class sessions.

Requirements: 1800 word minimum. Times New Roman, 12pt font, standard margins.

Final Paper Due Date: Tuesday, May 6th, 2014. 5:00pm.

In PDF emailed to bbothwell@juilliard.edu