Music 1900-1945

MODERNISM

TRENDS

- DISSONANCE "LIBERATED"
- "PRIMITIVISM" – MORE GENERALLY: FOLK MUSIC, AN ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARD PATTERNS & FORMULAS
- CHAOTIC SURFACES, CONSISTENT INNER WORKINGS
- EXPRESSIONISM
- IRONY & DISTANCE – *dissimulation*

Dissonance as sonority

LISTENING EXAMPLES

CHOPIN Prelude No. 2

TEXTBOOK CD EXAMPLE:

SCHOENBERG *Etwas Rasch* (somewhat fast) from *Six Little Piano Pieces, Op. 19* (1911)

STRAVINSKY Three Pieces for String Quartet, III

(Previously, 1600-1900 – dissonance is *functional*, functioning to drive melody and harmony forward)

Stravinsky

The Rite of Spring (Le Sacre du printemps)

(1913; for very large orchestra)

-- a ballet with a story line written in part by an anthropologist

-- interested in primitive or exotic materials; what is behind the mask of civilization?

Stravinsky’s drawing

The Rite of Spring

-- radically new: non-tonal, harsh unresolved dissonance, percussive, brilliant orchestral effects, extreme ranges, rhythmically and metrically very irregular and quite innovative

-- a riot (somewhat staged) at its premiere; much publicity ensues
Serialism
developed by Arnold Schoenberg
An order of the 12 possible chromatic pitches is the basis of the organization of a piece of music, not a key or tonality or a scale.
Schoenberg & his 2 pupils, Alban Berg & Anton Webern, become "known" as the 2nd Viennese School.

Schoenberg
Textbook discussion:
p. 403
Piano Concerto
Uses "12-tone" method of composition

Listening example:
Etwas Rasch (somewhat fast) from Six Little Piano Pieces, Op. 19 (1911)
TEXTBOOK CD

Blue self-portrait, 1910

The Red Gaze, 1910

Modernist idea

Stravinsky, Arnold Newman photo
Stravinsky

3 periods:
• Russian (Primitivist)
• Neo-Classical
• Late (Serialist)

Stravinsky - Picasso

3 periods:
• Russian (Primitivist)
• Neo-Classical
• Late (Serialist)

several periods:
• Primitivist
• Cubist
• Neo-Classical

Modernism –

Romanticism intensified?

Folk interest/exotism → primitivism
Demons → Subconscious? (inner demons)
Artist as prophet → Artist as prophet
Artist as outsider/rebel → Artist as outsider/rebel
What is new? → What is New? Historicism?

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CHAOS v. ORDER