



The Young Mozart at the Clavichord, detail from Le Thé à l'Anglaise, a concert at the home of the Princesse de Conti, 1766, by Michel Barthelemy Olivier

# Prompts for Guided Listening to Music

All music includes the same basic elements: **melody, rhythm, harmony, tempo, expression, tone color, and form**. Composers and performers can choose to emphasize any of these elements and how to use each one. Here are a few prompts to guide your music listening experience:

## Melody

Does the melodic phrase mostly go up, down, or stay the same?  
Does the melody include scale-like passages, large leaps, or a mixture?  
Is the music in a major key, a minor key, or some other tonality?  
Are there embellishments in the melody?

## Rhythm

Does the rhythm have a steady beat?  
Does the beat have divisions of 2 or 3?  
Does the rhythm have a meter of 2, a meter of 3, or some other grouping?  
Are there triplets or other unusual rhythmic groupings?  
Are there syncopated accents in the rhythm?

## Harmony

Is the texture thin or thick?  
Is the harmony simple or rich with extra chromatic notes?  
Does the music start and end on a tonic chord?

## Tempo

Is the speed of the music slow, fast, moderate, or changing?

## Expression

Is the music soft, medium, loud, or changing?  
Are the notes detached or smoothly connected?

## Tone Color

What are the voice and instrument colors (timbres) in the music?

## Form

Are there repeated sections in the music? How are the sections of the music arranged?