

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## HEARING ASSIGNMENT

DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one minute of music from your own collection. It should be something you can bring to school to play on the sound system (e.g., CD or iPod). In paragraph form, describe the music by answering relevant questions from pages 1-2 in the textbook (“What are we hearing?”).

Your submission should be typed, with accurate spelling and grammar.

### Possible items to listen for and mention:

- What’s the **emotional effect/mood**? (What **adjectives** come to mind?)
- What **timbres** (instruments, voices) are you hearing?
- Do recognize a particular **musical style or genre**?
- What are the **specific layers** that make up the overall **texture**? Can you identify a predominant texture (monophony, melody with accompaniment, or polyphony)?
- Is there a **steady beat**? What’s the **tempo**? **Meter (time signature)**?
- Describe the **melodic style**: is it simple or complex? Easy to sing or not? Does the melody divide into clear phrases or not?
- Describe the **harmonic style**: is it consonant or dissonant? “Major-ish” or “minor-ish” (or neither)?
- Are there **other specific features or moments** in the music that stand out to your ears?

Example:

Maple Leaf Rag, by Scott Joplin

*This piece features solo piano in a ragtime style. As a ragtime piece, it features a clear groove in the pianist’s left hand and jagged melodies in the right hand. With respect to texture, two major layers can be heard: an accompanying, chordal left hand and a melodic right hand. Rhythmically, there is a steady beat and fast tempo. The beats group into measures of four (probably 4/4 time signature). Because of its speed and “jumpy” shape, the melody is complex. There are repeated ideas within the melody, which help it to “stick together.” The harmonies are generally consonant and “major-ish,” and they change at a relatively fast pace.*