Musical Object / Musical Site Essay
Assignment Guidelines

OPTION 1: Musical Object
Your task is to choose a musical object and write about its relationship to the "Western art music tradition" as defined by the boundaries of Music Humanities. The object can be something literal and/or personal, like a musical instrument that has been in your family for a long time, or something more abstract and/or in the public domain, like a music video on the Internet. The object itself doesn't have to be within the Western art music tradition, but it should be clear how it significantly relates to it.

OPTION 2: Musical Site
Your task is to go to a musical site (a concert, an internet chat room about music, a rehearsal, an instrumental lesson of a friend, a dance class etc.) and analyze any aspect of it. The musical site must be within or closely related to the "Western art music tradition" as defined by the boundaries of Music Humanities. Consider your chosen musical site as a complex network of pieces of music, performers, audiences, dress codes, rituals, marketing, technologies, program notes, money flows, curated programs, scores and individual parts, as appropriate.

Grading Criteria

Thesis and Support 10 points
Make a focused, insightful claim about the relationship of 1) a musical object to the Western art music tradition or 2) about an element of your chosen musical site. You may present a traditional essay with a thesis supported with paragraphs of evidence, or you may follow a looser form, as long as it stays focused.

Flow and Composition 10 points
Your writing should be clear, organized, and coherent. The weight of your argument rests on how clearly you communicate. Proofread. Spell-check. There is no right answer to this assignment: write this piece so it reflects who you are as a scholar, and what interests you about music culture.

Logistics
- 2.5-3 double-spaced pages, no more, no less.
- 1 inch margins
- original title
- name on every page
- number your pages

Deadline: March 19, 2018 (Monday after Spring Break). Bring a hard copy to class. Do not email the assignment to me *unless* you are missing that class.