

# World Music Choir Listening and Written Test

## Notes

### 12 core terms

1. **Unison:** When a group of people is singing in one part (with harmony)
2. **Monophony:** Singing without harmony
  - a. Mono = one; Phonic = sound
  - b. Number of instruments and singers do not matter as long as they are playing the same thing at the same time.
  - c. Can sing in different octaves
  - d. 1 melody
  - e. No harmony
3. Polyphony and Harmony are two related terms
  - a. **Polyphonic singing:** Singing in more than one part
    - i. Poly = many
    - ii. 2 melodies occurring simultaneously (ie. Male voice melody and trumpet melody)
    - iii. Can also occur when you have the same melody but it occurs at staggered time (starts at different time)
  - b. **Singing in harmony:** Singing in more than one part
4. **Drone:** Long sustained sound
  - a. It can be in different places (top, middle, or bottom of the polyphonic texture), but has to be the same note.
  - b. 2 types of drone
    - i. **Pedal drone:** One sustained sound in one of the part (ie. Continuously singing 'la' in the same note)
    - ii. **Rhythmic drone:** Repeated sound on the same pitch (ie. Singing 'lalala', at the same pitch)
5. **Ostinato:** Repeating melodic figure over and over again
  - a. Can be used in different places of the polyphonic texture (top, middle, or bottom)
  - b. Have to be in at least 2 different pitch (ie. Singing 'lalala', in different pitch)

**THIS SECTION IS NOT COMPLETE – BUY FOR FULL VERSION**

## Info on the Listening Test

- ❖ Will start playing song, but will not tell you what song it is from
- ❖ You can write the answer for second song on the second page.
- ❖ Each of the songs are going to be played 3x continuously.
- ❖ 1 hour test
- ❖ Only will be played songs from the lecture
- ❖ You can answer the test in bullet points or paragraphs, but I suggest on writing it in bullet points as it's faster and clearer.
- ❖ Include basic info about the region of the traditional music from.
- ❖ Be careful on distinguishing East Africa and West Georgia as they are pretty similar.
- ❖ If you got song for example to East Africa → need to explain why this song is from East Africa AND why this song is not from Central Africa, BUT you don't need to compare it to Georgia (vice versa)
- ❖ When you get for example pop song → explain why you think it's pop song AND also why you think it is not rock song (ie. no power chord, no single note riffs, not inducing fear, etc.)

## Polyphonic singing

- ❖ **Before even deciding where the traditional music is from → explain a little bit about polyphonic singing**

- Thought to come before monophonic singing
  - People were thought to be polyphonic, but then gradually changing into monophonic, with Asia being the fastest
- Polyphonic singing is an ancient phenomenon that's gradually disappearing

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## Africa

### Basic information about Africa

- ❖ Polyphonic singing is disappearing, but Africa remains the biggest polyphonic singing country
  - There's no passive audience → everybody is singing (including the children)
    - It is even evident when they are going to concert → they say they want to make music and not say they want to listen to music
- ❖ Their songs always have rhythm → can clap and dance to it
- ❖ Most of African song consists of swing (4 beats and each beats consist of 3 smaller beats)
- ❖ Not written by 1 creative composer → traditional polyphonic songs are usually written by several creative performers → somebody will start the song and the rest will join in
- ❖

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## East Africa - Wagogo

- ❖ Its polyphony is mostly based of parallel movement of melodic lines and voices or sometimes use free polyphony and consonance
  - Their polyphony also widely uses the mixture of several compositional techniques of polyphony, resulting in rich contrapuntal polyphony
- ❖ Adopted European chord singing style early on
  - The blend of the Europe choral music and the American- Africa gospel is thriving here
- ❖ Text sometimes present (sometimes not)
  - No text: Melodic lines develop freely
  - Text: Same melodic patterns, as their language is tonal

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## Central Africa - Pygmy

- ❖ Central Africa singing style is strongly affected by unique musical traditions of Pygmies.
- ❖ Polyrhythmic and polymeter activity → can dance and clap to it
  - It's polyphony is based on ostinato and free polyphony
  - The Church allows Africans to dance and specifically create a space for dancers because African thinks that it is not a music if you cannot dance with it.
- ❖ There's no words (ie. they only use like 'iaiaiaiaia')
  - If you are unsure if it's a word or not → most probably it's not, because words sound very distinct

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## Differences in pop and rock:

	<b>Pop</b>	<b>Rock</b>

<b>Message</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More positive → mainly about love, cheerful songs, and helping each other</li> <li>• Lighter and pleasant to hear without too much complications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lyric mostly carrying feeling of anger/ aggression/ violence/ fear- inducing/ frustration/ sex (as long as they express authentic, honest feelings)</li> <li>• Challenge traditions, sometimes anti- social</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Group Identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less important → pop acts range from soloist to bands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crucial → most rock acts are in bands</li> </ul>
<b>Singing style</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relaxing</li> <li>• Sad songs are presented in a soft way</li> <li>• More popular and played in the radio more as it's more positive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screaming (aggressive), whispering (threatening)</li> <li>• Simple and direct with screaming</li> </ul>
<b>Instruments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mixture of instruments</li> <li>• Rhythmic guitar is present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruments are not many, but loud (mostly 3: lead guitar, bass guitar, &amp; drum)</li> <li>• Solo by lead guitar</li> <li>• No rhythmic guitar that play full chords</li> <li>• Drum patterns become more dense and sophisticated in rock.</li> </ul>

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