A Procedure for Listening to Music:

1. Immerse yourself in the music. Really open yourself to the music.

2. Record your -
   
   **Subjective Impressions** *(what the music says to you)*
   
   **EFFECT**
   
   keeping in mind the expressive aspects of music:
   
   - Emotion, the Intellect, the Human Spirit, and Physical Environment
   
   Search your feelings, your intellect, and your spirit. What does the music cause you to picture in your mind? Where does it take you?

   **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKiR5KNZ0aI (first minute)**

   "The music gave me a feeling of jubilant optimism, as if I knew she would say 'yes.'"

   Describe your impressions in the first person. Be very detailed. Its okay to get personal, even if you have to make it up. Say whatever you need to truly express yourself. Music after all, is all about expression.

3. For each subjective impression, determine the "cause" in terms of
   
   **Objective Observations** *(the purely musical features that articulate what the music says to you)* -
   
   **CAUSE**

   **PARAMETERS:**
   
   **Tempo:** fast, slow, accelerating, decelerating -
   
   **Texture:** monophonic, polyphonic, homophonic - simple, complex, spare, dense
   
   **Melody:** range: narrow range, wide range
   
   - shape: steps, leaps, upward, downward, arching.
   
   - key: major, minor, chromatic, atonal.
   
   **Harmony:** spare, rich, consonant, dissonant.
   
   **Rhythm:** long notes, fast notes, repetitious, varied.
   
   **Dynamics:** loud, soft, crescendo, decrescendo.
   
   **Tone Color:** instruments, voices, combinations thereof, bright, dark, full, thin.
   
   **Form:** clear, ambiguous, short, long, simple, complex
   
   + plus, and very likely, any combination of the above.

   **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKiR5KNZ0aI (first minute)**

   "The upward leaping melody, played loudly by the french horns created a feeling of jubilant optimism, as if I knew she would say 'yes.'"

   The above adjectives are a very basic, very dry starting point. More **imaginative adjectives** should be used alone or in conjunction with the ones above. Be creative in your descriptions of both the objective and subjective. Be as creative as you need to get your point across.

   **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKiR5KNZ0aI (first minute)**

   "The athletic, upward leaping melody, played forcefully and exuberantly by the french horns created a feeling of wonderful, jubilant optimism, as if I knew she would say 'yes.' Hallelujah!!"
4. Arrange your objective observations and resulting subjective impressions into a narrative essay of what you heard and felt. Each subjective impression must be supported by at least 2 objective observation(s).

Exercise - AS YOU LISTEN TO THIS MUSIC, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZHrqpG55B4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZHrqpG55B4)

Write a paragraph or 2 or 3 or more on what the listening selection portrays to you. Include your Subjective Impressions (what the music says to you), each supported by at least 2 Objective Observations (the purely musical features that articulate what the music says to you). Please be detailed… use as many parameters as you can, the more the better.

Here is a sample listening report.

_Things start off running with the strings playing a frenetic, repeating rhythm. I’m in the big city with the hustle and bustle of people scurrying about on a business day. The trumpets blasts are taxi cab horns and the woodwinds play frantically running melodic lines not sure of where they are going along while the strings continue their incessant frenetic rhythm. When all the brass and timpani blow in, I stand before the imposing structure of the Empire State Building. Suddenly, with an adrenaline rushed upward sweep of the harps, a gust of wind sends me scurrying again towards my office._

_A more relaxed, expansive melody, placed atop the playfully skittering and running winds and strings gradually finds its way in periodically, taking turns between the oboe, woodwinds in combination, trumpet and violins, providing me with much needed consolation and feeling of well-being in the otherwise chaotic environment._

_All is suddenly quiet. I’m in the office now, and it is a nervous quiet with the soft, measured timpani and harp strokes…the background trumpets tell me something is up! As the music crescendos, the frantic elements return, and grow ever more intense as a ruckus emerges from the backroom. When the brass gets going, I realize its my boss raising Cain! As the woodwind’s running returns, we all get to work, dealing with the apparent emergency. With occasional panicked exclamations from various instruments, or the entire orchestra, we work out the crisis._

_With a somber oboe melody, and a gradual subsiding of the otherwise ever-present nervous and frenetic strings, we finalize the situation, and wipe our brows in nervous relief._
Pointers:
• minor is not always sad
• Major is not always happy
• not everything has to be war or a fairytale. Yes it can be, but don’t forget to consider the real world and your own experiences.

Listening report = a narrative of what happens in the music (objective) and the resulting impression (subjective).

thus each subjective impression must be supported by an objective observation.

Concert Reports...