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World War II Music Webquest

**Paul Hindemith Note Guide**

Part 1 – Rise of the Nazis (12 points)

1. In what year and what kind of people started the Nazi Party?

2. What year did Adolf Hitler join the German Worker’s Party, the group that was the beginning of the Nazi party?

3. In 1923, why did the Nazi Party seemed doomed to fail? What happened to Hitler?

4. What did Hitler write in 1925 that explained his ideals?

5. In 1925, who did the Nazi party pledge their loyalty to until death?

6. When did the Nazi party officially come into power in Germany?

7. What happened in 1933 that set the stage for authors, musicians, and artists to have their artistic freedom taken from them?

8. Could musicians write any kind of music under the Nazi leadership? What constituted “good” music?

9. Who were the 3 composers that were considered writers of “good” German music? Did they write their music while Hitler was the leader of the Nazis?

Part 2A – Paul Hindemith’s Relationship with the Nazi Party (7 points)

1. True or False: Paul Hindemith loved the Nazi Party.

2. Was Hindemith quiet in his opinions of the Nazi Party?

3. According to the LA Phil website, why didn’t the Nazi party like Hindemith’s music?

4. Before writing *Mathis der Maler*, Hindemith wrote an earlier opera that offended the Nazi leaders. What did a character in the opera do to cause this offense?

5. What happened to half of Hindemith’s music in 1933? What happened to his music in 1936?

6. What happened to Hindemith in September 1938? Why?

Part 2B – History of *Mathis der Maler* (Matthias the Painter) Symphony (17 points)

1. The opera, *Mathis der Maler*, is about a person from the 15th Century. What was his full name? What was his occupation? What war did he live during?

2. What did Hindemith have his Mathis do in the opera? How is this like Hindemith’s life?

3. Did the real Grunewald really join in the fight with the peasants?

4. There are 3 movements in the symphony. These movements are based on 3 panels that Grunewald painted. Please tell what the paintings represent for each of the movements.

5. Which was completed first: the opera or the symphony?

6. Was the premiere performance of the symphony successful? What did the audience do at the end of the piece?

7. The symphony was premiered in 1934, but what happened a month later? Why?

Part 3 – Listening of *Mathis der Maler* Symphony

Played by an Italian orchestra

**1st Movement – Angelic Concert**

The trombones play a German folk melody (“Three angels sang a sweet song”) at the beginning.

See if you can hear 3 different themes – one for each of the angels in the painting. Roughly at video

times: 2:34, 3:46 & 4:30.

Listen for the motive that runs throughout the movement – especially at time marking 6:35.

1. When you hear the opening notes of the symphony do the long notes create any kind of emotion? Which one? Please draw on the labeled sheet of paper what you are hearing/seeing.

2. As the orchestra builds, does the emotion change? Why?

3. How does the Hindemith use the instruments timbre to create emotion?

4. Did your emotion change at time marking 6:50 when the orchestra’s dynamic grew? How?

5. Listen to the many different layers of music that is happening at the same time (the texture). Can you hear all of them at one time? How does the combination affect the piece?

6. How did the ending make you feel? Why? How?

**2nd Movement – Entombment** (Time within the video: 9:31)

1. How does the music reflect the picture of Christ?

2. Does it seem sad? Why or why not?

3. Is there much change in the dynamics? How much? Does it change the feeling of the piece?

4. How does the rhythm differ in this movement than in the 1st?

5. Is the texture as thick in this movement as the 1st? How is it the same or different?

6. Do you hear anything that might remind you of the Nazi party or against them? What? Why or Why not?

**3rd Movement – Temptation of Saint Anthony** (Time within the video: 13:35)

1. How does this movement sound different from the 1st movement – or does it?

2. How does the rhythm affect the mood/emotion of the piece?

3. Do you hear anything that might remind you of the Nazi party or against them? What? Why or Why not?

4. Does the music evoke a story in your mind? What? Please draw on the labeled sheet of paper what your are hearing/seeing.

5. What kind of emotion does Hindemith create?

6. How does the music change at time marking 27:15?

**Hindemith’s *Mathis der Maler Symphony* 1st Movement Drawing**

**Hindemith’s *Mathis der Maler Symphony* 3rd Movement Drawing**