

DESMA 160: Sonic Visual Relationships
Instructor Drew Schnurr

MIDTERM Study Guide

Defining Shared Esthetic Components of Sound and Image

Texture - surface composition

Content - meaning

Mood - subjective emotion

Articulation - corresponding timing of physical elements

Phrase - macro/micro transitions and shapes

Visual Correlation - Sound

Conjunctive - Relates directly to visual esthetic components

Semi-Conjunctive - Partial relationship to visual esthetic components

Non-Conjunctive - Does not directly relate to visual esthetic components

Sound Characteristics

Articulation

1. Envelope
 - Attack - partial characteristics
 - Sustain
 - Decay
2. Organization
 - Speed
 - Consistency: type of repetition and variation
 - a. Music: Regular Intervals
 - b. Noise: Irregular Intervals
 - Conjunction: relationship of elements to one another (in or out of phase)

Timbre (*tam-ber*)

1. Complexity
 - Noise (complex) - multiple fundamental Hz with complex upper partials
 - Tone (simple) - single fundamental Hz with regular upper partials
2. Position in Hz spectrum
 - Hz Partitions
 - a. Brevis (short,small,brief) - *High 5,000-20,000 Hz*
 - b. Altus (high,deep) - *Mid/High 900-5,000 Hz*
 - c. Medius (middle) - *Mid 300-900 Hz*
 - d. Fundus (deep,thick) - *Low/Mid 100-300 Hz*
 - e. Primoris (first, foremost) - *Low 0-100 Hz*
3. *Timbral Divergence - Evolution of timbre over a period of time
 - spatial positioning
 - over Hz partitions
 - connection to other elements

Loudness

1. Perception of amplitude
2. Dynamics - Loudness over a period of time and phrase

Pitch

1. Sounds that contain a fundamental frequency - relatively simplistic timbre
2. *Sensation of "Tonality" - Dissonance vs. Consonance
3. Chordal Harmony - collection of multiple tones occurring at once
4. Thematic Tone Sequence - melody
5. Theme and variation

Sound Characteristics (cont)

Spatial Orientation

1. Position in mix field
 - mono
 - stereo
 - multichannel
 - a. 5.1
 - b. 7.1
2. Environment Characteristics - actual or simulated
 - Acoustics
 - a. size, dimension, and shape of space
 - b. material construction
 - Background Sound
 - a. environment noise
 - b. **noise floor**

Sonic Production

1. Acoustic - live performance of sound from actual source
2. Sound Recording
 - Technology
 - a. Formats - each having its own signature characteristics
 - Digital
 - Tape
 - Phonograph
 - Other early forms of recording media
 - b. Components
 - Microphones
 - Pre-Amps
 - Outboard Processing
3. Playback
 - quality and characteristics of sound reproduction system
 - nature of room acoustics and environment

Points of discussion:

Effect of organization?

What is the context of culture and personal experience?

Is it noise or is it music?

Musical Characteristics

1. Articulation consistency is more regular with more conjunction
2. Use of sounds with a fundamental frequency and regular upper partials

Noise Characteristics

1. Articulation consistency is less regular with a less conjunction
2. Use of sounds with a multiple fundamental frequencies and complex partial structure

Introduction to Tonality

1. Influence of Harmonic Partials
 - partial Hz implication of chord structure
2. Tonality (Tonal Harmony vs. Atonal Harmony)
 - Chords - pitch clusters
 - Harmony - chords and chord sequences
 - Tonal Harmony (consonant) - corresponds with natural partial structures
 - Atonal Harmony (dissonant) - does not correspond with natural partial structure