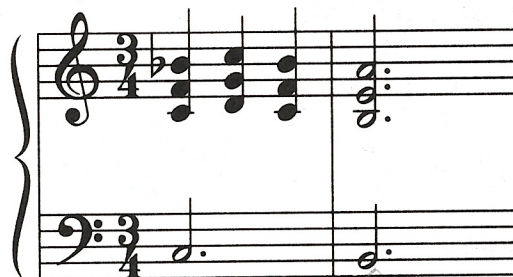


LESSON 17

THE 20th and 21st CENTURIES (CONTEMPORARY)

Many changes have taken place in the way music sounds during the 20th and 21st Centuries. Some characteristics of this period are:

- Major and minor tonalities avoided**, with non-tonal (not in Major or minor keys) harmonies being used
- Quartal Harmony**: the use of 4ths to make up chords, rather than thirds



QUARTAL HARMONY

- Bitonality**: the use of two different keys at the same time



BITONALITY

This example shows these characteristics: Polyphonic texture, changing meter, avoidance of Major or minor tonalities.



Four well known 20th and 21st Centuries composers are:

Bela Bartók: Born in Hungary

Dmitri Kabalevsky: Born in Russia

Alexander Tcherepnin: Born in Russia

Serge Prokofiev: Born in Russia

Answer these questions.

1. Give the name for each of these types of tonality:

- a. Bitonality Two separate keys played at the same time.
- b. Quartal Harmony 4ths used for harmonies (rather than 3rds).
- c. Atonality No specific key used.
- d. Polytonality Several different keys played at the same time.

Hello

2. What has happened to Major and minor tonalities in music of the 20th and 21st Centuries?

Not much more, avoidance of it...

3. What types of meters are used in music of the 20th and 21st Centuries?

Odd, unusual meters

4. What is a common texture used in music of the 20th and 21st Centuries?

polyphonic

5. What forms are often used in this music?

Classical forms

6. Name four composers of the 20th and 21st Centuries and their birthplaces.

Bela Bartok - Hungary

Dmitri Kabalevsky - Russia

Alexander Tcherippin - Russia

Serge Prokofiev - Russia

Hello

Hello

Hello

Hello