Western Music

3rd week June

Grade 10

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Competency- Ability to apply theoretical and practical knowledge of the Rudiments of music.

Competency level- Describes Variation Form

Variation Form

The form called 'Theme and Variations' was widely used in the Classical period.

Variations are pieces which start with one pattern or tune and then changes them in different ways. Theme is another name for the main musical idea of a piece.

In this form, a basic musical idea – "The Theme" – is repeated over and over and is changed each time.

A Theme / Variation I / Variation II / Variation III / and so on……

Each variation should be a recognizable version of the main theme, but different from the others.

You can vary a tune in simple ways, as follows :
* Start with a basic theme

* Changing the melody by adding notes to the theme

Each variation is usually about the same length as the theme. The following may be used to give a variation its own identity.

+ Changes of melody   + Rhythm   + Harmony
+ Accompaniment   + Dynamics   + Tone colour

You can also change the tempo, change the key (from major to minor) and add different types of accompaniment.

Examples of Variation form :

1.   The Harmonious Blacksmith by Handel

2.   The 'Trout' Quintet by Schubert

3.   Sonata in A   K331 by Mozart

🔊   Lets listen to 'Twelve Variation on " Ah Vous dirai-je, Maman"
                                                                (Mozart (1756 - 1791)

How does the first theme change?...

1. Pitch?   2.   Rhythm? 3.   Harmony?   4.   Dynamics?   5. Texture?

✏️ **Write the things you notice using the words 1 - 5, listening to the music following music.**

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1.   The Harmonious Blacksmith by Handel
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2.   The 'Trout' Quintet by Schubert
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3.   Sonata in A   K331 by Mozart
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