



Minimalism

Walt: Demonstrate
how to develop music
in a minimalist style

Check these terms:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Cell | |
| Ostinato | |
| Atonal | |
| Broken Chords | |
| Dissonance | |
| Leitmotif | |
| Crescendo | |
| Loop | |



In C – Terry Riley (One of the best-known early minimalist pieces!)

- 1) Name two instruments that can be heard (2 marks)
- 2) This extract begins with quavers being repeated on a high C. This continues throughout the extract. What is the name of this musical device? (1 mark)
- 3) Justify why this is an example of minimalism (1)

In C – Terry Riley

- Can be played by any combination of instruments/voices
- Made up of 53 cells which are numbered and played in order
- Performers can choose how many times they repeat each cell
- Constant C quavers keep the piece together (pedal)
- To finish, all performers repeat the 53rd cell and stop when they're ready

in C.

This image displays a collection of 35 numbered musical exercises, likely for a piano or guitar, arranged in a grid. Each exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), which is C major. The exercises are numbered 1 through 35. Exercises 1 through 6 are on the first line, 7 through 10 on the second, 11 through 15 on the third, 16 through 21 on the fourth, 22 through 24 on the fifth, 25 through 28 on the sixth, 29 through 34 on the seventh, and 35 is on the eighth line. The exercises vary in complexity, including simple scales, arpeggios, and short melodic phrases. Some exercises include fingerings indicated by numbers 1-5 below the notes. Exercise 35 is a longer, more complex piece that spans the entire eighth line.

Mix & Match

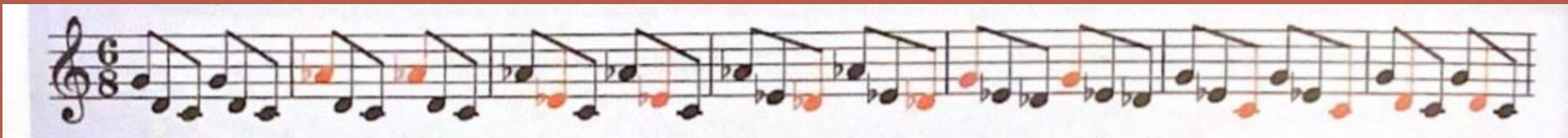
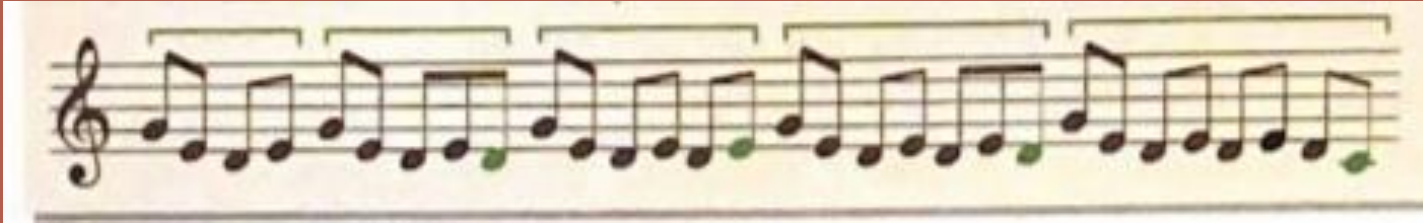
Additive Melody

Metamorphosis

Subtraction

Phase-Shifting

Layering



Steve Reich (1936)

- American
- Influenced by Terry Riley
- Also influenced by Jazz, music from sub-Saharan Africa), Balinese Gamelan and Middle Eastern singing
- Clapping Music, Electric Counterpoint & Different Trains (written as a reaction to the Holocaust, uses samples)



John Adams

- Uses music to paint a picture
 - *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* was inspired by a sports car
- 1) How does Adams create tension?
 - 2) Which family of the orchestra is most dominant? Why is this?
 - 3) What minimalist features are used?

Technology

Delay vs Reverb.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Close-mic | The technique of placing the microphone relatively close to an instrument or sound source to produce a non-reverberant sound |
| Compression | Making the sound more consistent in the dynamic range so that they 'sit' in the mix of other instruments better |
| EQ | Used to eliminate unwanted sounds or enhance particular aspects |
| Panning | Balancing a single sound over two channels |
| Reverb | Multiple blended sounds created from reflection (commonly added to a voice) |
| Delay (echo) | A single copy of the sound at a later time |
| Overdubbing | Recording the same instrumental or vocal part twice to achieve a chorus effect |
| Double Tracking | Using a 4 track recorder to record each track separately rather than recording the band playing live |