

Do you hear what I hear?

engaging music as a community

No two people have exactly the same experience when listening to a piece of music. By talking about what we notice, feel, and think, we can broaden our appreciation of the music and each other.

the process:

- 1) Someone offers a very brief introduction of the music.
- 2) Listen to the music. (No talking!)
- 3) Talk about the music in small groups, focusing on the following questions:
 - **What did you notice?**
Which features of the music stand out? Why?
 - **What did you feel?**
Is there one overall mood or character? Several different emotions or energies?
 - **What did you think?**
What captures your imagination? What is the music about?
What perspective does it present?
- ★ Point to specific elements in the actual music when sharing your impressions. ★
 - For example, if the music seems “nervous” or “elegant,” identify what the instruments or singers do to create that effect.
 - If the piece has lyrics, describe how the music colors the meaning of the words.
 - Phrase your impressions in positive terms (nothing negative). For example, rather than “chaotic” say “complex.” Rather than “creepy,” say “mysterious.”
- 4) Discuss the music with the larger group.
- 5) Someone shares a short bit of background information about the music.
- 6) Listen to the piece again. This time, try to hear it “through other people’s ears.”