GUIDED LISTENING

Learning Goals:
1. Students create a word bank of musical and non-musical terms generated as they describe details of the music.
2. Students analyze/interpret/translate the musical work by completing a speculative task to demonstrate and communicate their perception of the composer’s/performer’s intention.

Process:
Tell students that, for each musical work, they will DESCRIBE the music by LISTENING and THINKING to answer guiding questions about the music.

- They should find a way to respond to what they hear without judgement.
- Students may respond to questions on the following worksheets or do so verbally as a class with the teacher recording answers on chart paper.
- Do not explain the music, but rather ask clarifying questions.
- If you rephrase a response make sure you check with the response to ensure this is what they meant.

1. DESCRIBE: What do you notice? Play the music (more than once as time allows) then ask them to DESCRIBE it using non-judgmental objective language. (“I notice…”)
2. QUESTION: What questions do you have about this music? (“I wonder…”)
3. SPECULATE: What meaning, or understanding is intended or conveyed by this music? What does the composer want you to know, feel, or understand?
4. CRITICAL RESPONSE: What does it remind you of? (Remember – what memory, experience, story, music, other work does this trigger?)
5. COMPARE/CONTRAST: How are these two pieces similar? How are they different? (“I noticed they both…” “They both make me feel…”)

Listening:
- R. Nathaniel Dett: In the Bottoms: V. Dance – Juba
  https://open.spotify.com/track/1NiA0XaticbeiWSop3q1i?si=u5k4xa6KRsfqsb3OokANcvQ

Other Questions to Ask:
1. What’s going on in the music?
2. What did you hear that made you say that?
3. Repeat what you just said and give me a few more details.
4. What else did it remind you of?
5. If you were using all your senses beyond hearing to describe the music, what do you think you would see? Smell? Taste? Feel?
6. If the composer waked into the room just now, what questions would you ask them?
Florence Price: Symphony in E Minor: III. Juba Dance

Write your favorite words that describe this music.

What questions do you have about this music?

What does this music remind you of?

What does the composer want you to know, feel, or understand?
R. Nathaniel Dett: In the Bottoms: V. Dance – Juba

Write your favorite words that describe this music.

What questions do you have about this music?

What does this music remind you of?

What does the composer want you to know, feel, or understand?