Composing Dances

Irish Music

Aural Skills

Styles

Performance

Harmony

History of Music

March
Mendelssohn, A Midsummer Night's Dream

- Metre: 2 or 4 in a bar
- Time Signatures: 2/4, 4/4, 2/2 or 6/8
- Can begin on downbeat or upbeat
- Regular, even-length phrases
- Tempo: moderate
- Binary form and other forms
- Dotted rhythms
- Marches are found in classical and traditional repertoire

Minuet
Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 1

- Metre: 3 in a bar
- Time Signatures: 3/4
- Can begin on downbeat or upbeat
- Regular, even-length phrases
- Tempo: slow, stately
- Binary form
- The minuet was commonly found in the Baroque suite. In the Classical era, the minuet-and-trio was often used for the 3rd movement of a symphony

Waltz
Tchaikovsky, Sleeping Beauty

- Metre: 3 in a bar
- Time Signatures: 3/4 or 3/8
- Can begin on downbeat or upbeat
- Regular, even-length phrases
- Tempo: moderate to fast
- Often Binary form but can be Ternary form
- The waltz emerged in the 18th century as a ballroom dance for embracing couples

Gavotte
Lully, Gavotte

- Metre: 2 in a bar
- Time Signatures: 4/4 or 2/2
- Phrases begin on a minim upbeat
- Regular, even-length phrases
- Tempo: slow to moderate
- Binary form
- Clear resting point at phrase endings
- The gavotte was often added as a movement in Baroque dance suites

Reel
Trad., McLeod's Reel

- Metre: 2 in a bar
- Time Signatures: 4/4, 2/2 or 2/4
- Can begin on downbeat or upbeat
- Regular, even-length phrases
- Tempo: fast
- Binary form
- Active quaver movement common
- Irish traditional tune that came to Ireland from France, via Scotland in the 1700s

Gigue
Bach, Cello Suite no. 1

- Metre: 2 or 4 in a bar
- Time Signatures: 6/8 or 12/8
- Can begin on downbeat or upbeat
- Regular, even-length phrases
- Tempo: fast and brisk
- Binary form
- The gigue was a standard movement in the Baroque suite

Jig
Trad., A Pantomime Jig

- Metre: 2 in a bar
- Time Signature: 6/8
- Can begin on downbeat or upbeat
- Regular, even-length phrases
- Tempo: fast and brisk
- Binary form
- Irish traditional tune, thought to be the oldest type of traditional dance tune in Ireland