

VCE MUSIC PERFORMANCE (2011 STUDY DESIGN)
INTERPRETATION TAXONOMY

PART ONE: DEFINING THE PIECE
1.1 RHYTHM (DURATION) Overall <i>tempo</i> : fast, moderate or slow?
Basic <i>pulse</i> : generally regular/irregular?
Is this music organized into a <i>metre/metres</i> ?
1.2 PITCH What is the <i>tonality</i> of the example (major, minor, modal etc. Is it atonal)?
Describe the <i>harmony</i> (simple/complex harmony, slow/fast harmonic rhythm)
1.3 TONE COLOUR What <i>instruments</i> (= <i>sound sources</i>) are being used?
Describe the <i>tone colour</i> of these instruments
How are they being <i>played</i> ? (i.e. using what idiomatic instrumental techniques?)
1.4 MELODY/THEME Describe the basic <i>character</i> of (the main) melody in this excerpt – what emotion does it suggest?
Describe the <i>contour</i> of (the main) melody.
Nuance the contour by adding critical <i>solfege</i> (scale degree) indications
Nuance the contour by adding notating some basic <i>rhythms</i>
Describe the use of <i>embellishment/ornamentation</i> (the decoration of the basic melody)?
How is melody organized into <i>phrases</i> ? How long are phrases? What defines them?
1.5 TEXTURE Describe the <i>texture</i> of the example (e.g. monophony/homophony/heterophony/polyphony).
Is the texture <i>crowded</i> or <i>spacious</i> ?
Group the sound sources listed above by their <i>function</i> (e.g. accompaniment, melody etc.)
1.6 FORM Are all the features described so far organized into discrete <i>sections</i> ?
Consider which features are <i>stable</i> and which features <i>change</i> over time
1.7 BACKGROUND FACTORS <i>Who</i> wrote/created this music?
<i>Who for</i> ?
<i>Why</i> might this music have been written? Is this art music or commercial music?
<i>Where</i> and <i>when</i> might this music have been created?
What is the <i>style</i> of this music?
2 PART TWO: DEFINING THE INTERPRETATION
2.1 CONSIDERING THE WHOLE PIECE Describe the expressive <i>intention</i> of this interpretation (i.e. what emotions are the performers portraying?)
Describe the expressive <i>intensity</i>
2.2 CONSIDERING PHRASES/THEMES/MELODIES Describe the use of <i>rubato</i> (the relative freedom or strictness of the interpretation)
Describe the use of <i>dynamics</i> (loud/soft, and the shaping of dynamics)
2.3 CONSIDERING INDIVIDUAL NOTES Describe the use of <i>articulation</i> (staccato, marcato, bowing/tonguing/fingering patterns, vocal onsets etc.)