

II. Philip Glass and Minimalist Music:

- 1. Listen to “Mechanical Ballet” by Philip Glass. How many different instruments can you isolate? Can you identify any of them?**
- 2. How does this composition by Philip Glass align with the following definition of minimalist composition?**

A reaction against the atonal styles that had come to dominate the classical academic field in the 1950's, minimalism is stripped- down, deceptively simple music shorn of the intellectual pretentiousness of the avante-garde. Characterized by static harmony, a propulsive rhythmic drive and repetitive patterns that gradually, sometimes imperceptively, shift, the movement started in the '70s... (Todd Lothery. “The Richness of Minimalism.” *The News and Observer* March 1, 2002. 30)

- 3. Describe your reaction to this musical piece.**