

All-State: Art in Music & Marks of Good Music

presented by Elliot Del Borgo

“If you play good music, you’ll have good players” stated Elliot Del Borgo. Music is a temporal art. Art should be complex, in order and have depth. The signals of strength (canons of art) are unity, variety, and coherence. These same concepts can be applied to finding good music.

Del Borgo recommended doing the following when evaluating music:

1. Does it have counterpoint?
2. Does it have varieties of texture? Orchestration?
3. Is there a logical chord structure from measure to measure (harmony)?
4. Does it have interesting melodic shapes (highs and lows)?
5. Does it have dramatic rises/falls of tension?
6. Does it have rhythms of the piece or does it have too many ostinatos?
7. Does it have depth of feeling? Is there something you can express with emotion? ‡