

Title: Elements of Music History Today: From Gospel to Hip-Hop
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Some of the most integral developments in music from Greek Antiquity to the mid-1700's are alive and implemented in modern music. This project highlights the parallels between popular modern artists and the elements throughout music history that they implement. It will dissect modern examples of layered voices (polyphony) and motets. It then explores the new musical landscape incorporating these elements, using Kanye West's recent work as a contextual example. After evaluating examples of layered melodies in music today, the next element to address will be isorhythm. Thanks to isorhythm, music went through a revolutionary change in form and composition. Similar to modern musical structure, this work analyzes how isorhythm remains the foundation for the composition of the verse, chorus and bridge in modern songs. To conclude, we will walk through two Renaissance concepts that will wrap up the project findings and solidify their significance with modern parallels: implementation of four voice textures and borrowing of old text and works to create new music. Renaissance artists were well regarded for using elements from their past work and from the work of others. This is an ideal parallel to modern hip-hop sampling of previous songs to create a layered and more elaborate piece; taking work like Kendrick Lamar's "i" as a prime example. However, interpolation and "creating something new from borrowed material" is not limited to hip-hop. (Hanning 108). To conclude, this work explores examples in modern church music such as Hillsong's "The Creed (Amazing Grace)."

Works Cited

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