Prompts for Guided Listening to Music

All music includes the same basic elements: ** melody, rhythm, harmony, tempo, expression, tone color, and form.** Composers and performers can choose to emphasize any of these elements and how to use each one. Here are a few prompts to guide your music listening experience:

**Melody**
Does the melodic phrase mostly go up, down, or stay the same?
Does the melody include scale-like passages, large leaps, or a mixture?
Is the music in a major key, a minor key, or some other tonality?
Are there embellishments in the melody?

**Rhythm**
Does the rhythm have a steady beat?
Does the beat have divisions of 2 or 3?
Does the rhythm have a meter of 2, a meter of 3, or some other grouping?
Are there triplets or other unusual rhythmic groupings?
Are there syncopated accents in the rhythm?

**Harmony**
Is the texture thin or thick?
Is the harmony simple or rich with extra chromatic notes?
Does the music start and end on a tonic chord?

**Tempo**
Is the speed of the music slow, fast, moderate, or changing?

**Expression**
Is the music soft, medium, loud, or changing?
Are the notes detached or smoothly connected?

**Tone Color**
What are the voice and instrument colors (timbres) in the music?

**Form**
Are there repeated sections in the music? How are the sections of the music arranged?