

Rhythm

The *combination and pattern* of sounds around the beat

Metre

The pattern of the beats
Can be regular, irregular or free

Triplets

3 notes played where 2 notes should be.

Time signature

Shows how many beats, and what type of beat is in a bar



Compound time

Has 6, 9, or 12 as number of beats in a bar (top number of time signature)

Simple time

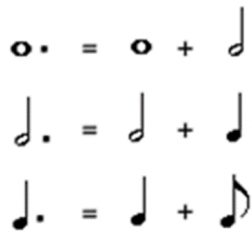
Has 2, 3 or 4 as number of beats in a bar (top number of time signature)

Tempo

The speed of music

Dotted rhythms

Adds half the original value to a note.



Cross-rhythm

2 contrasting rhythms played at the same time, sound like they don't fit together.

Drum fills

Short drum solos to join up sections of music, or for the drummer to show off.

Syncopation

The strong notes are on expected beats, sounds "off-beat". Used a lot in jazz music.

Hemiola

A rhythm which has a "three against two" feel. Used in Baroque music

Rubato

When the performer speeds up or slows down for extra expression.

Polyrhythm

More than 2 rhythms played at the same time. It sounds like they fit together.

Augmentation

To make bigger

Diminution

To make smaller

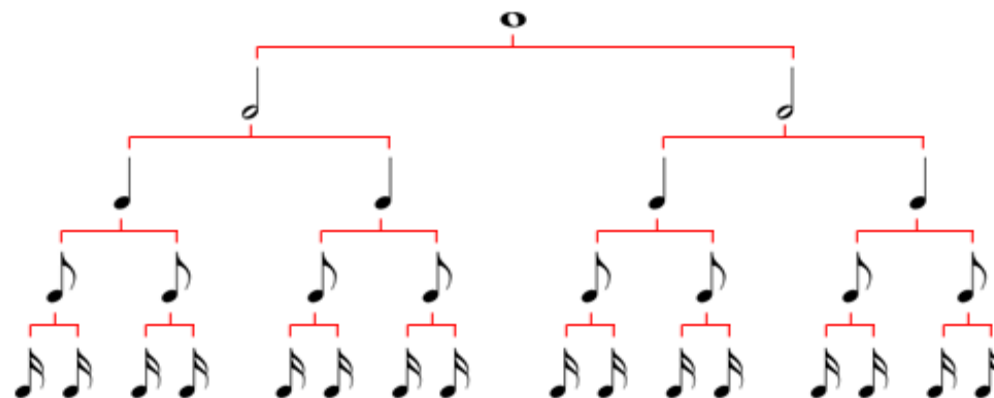
Semibreves 4 beats

Minims 2 beats

Crotchets 1 beat

Quavers ½ a beat

Semiquavers ¼ of a beat



Pulse

The steady beat

Bi-rhythm

Two different rhythms from the same time signature played at the same time.








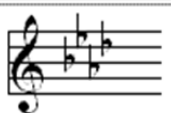
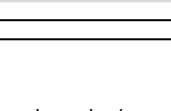

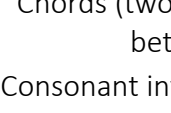
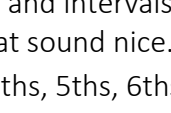
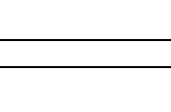
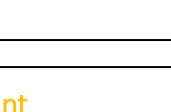
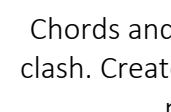
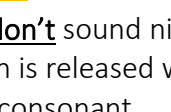
Duration

The length of the notes

Key signature

The group of sharps or flats written at the start of a piece of music.

C major  **A minor**

	G major		F major
	E minor		D minor
	D major		Bb major
	B minor		G minor
	A major		Eb major
	F# minor		C minor
	E major		Ab major
	C# minor		F minor

Consonant

Chords (two or more notes) and intervals (the gap between notes) that sound nice.
Consonant intervals = 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, octaves.

Dissonant

Chords and intervals that **don't** sound nice, they clash. Creates tension which is released when the music becomes consonant.
Dissonant intervals = 2nds, 7ths.

Tonal

Music is tonal that is built around a major or minor key.

Music in a **major** key sounds happy

Music in a **minor** key sounds sad

Modal music is built around ancient scales called modes. It sounds weird.

Chords

Major chords sound happy

Minor chords sound sad

Dominant 7th chords- the 5th chord of a scale, with an extra note (7th note of the scale) added on top.

Diatonic

When the notes belong to the main key.

Chromatic

When the notes **don't** belong to the main key.

Tièrce de Picardie

Music in a minor key, that ends on a major chord. Used by a lot of Baroque composers.

Harmony











The combination of different sounds, accompanies the melody.

Sharp #

A sharp raises a note by a semi tone

Flat ♭

A flat lowers a note by a semitone

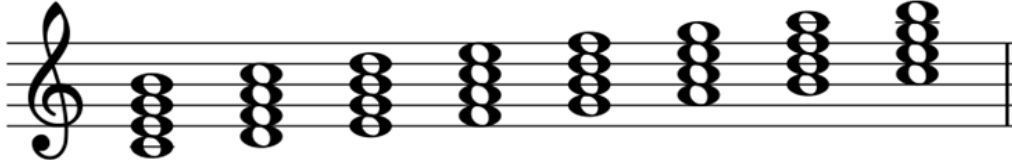
				
				
C	D	E	F	G
A	B	C	D	E

Drone

A long, held note(s) in the bass.

Pedal

Long repeated notes in the bass part.



I II III IV V VI VII I

Modulation

When a piece of music changes key

Modulation to dominant key

When a piece of music changes to the key of the 5th chord. E.g. music in C major would modulate to G major. G is the 5th chord of C major.

Modulation to subdominant key

When a piece of music changes to the key of the 4th chord. E.g. music in C major would modulate to F major. F is the 4th chord of C major.

Modulation to relative major or minor

When a piece of music goes to the key which shares the same key signature. E.g. A piece of music in C major could modulate to A minor- both keys have the same key signature- they are 'relative'.



Cadence

Two chords that mark the end of a phrase, or the end of the piece of music.

Perfect cadence

Dominant (V) - Tonic (I).
Sounds completely finished, like a full stop.

Plagal cadence

Subdominant (IV) - Tonic (I) chord.
A "full stop" but not as strong as perfect cadence. Sounds gentler.
Used at the end of hymns.

Imperfect cadence

Any chord - Dominant (V) chord. A musical comma, sounds unfinished, more music will follow.

Interrupted cadence

Dominant (V) chord - Submediant (VI). A musical comma, also known as "surprise" cadence.

Unison texture

Everyone sings/plays exactly the same thing at the same time.



Texture

How the different layers of the music weave together

Harmonic/homophonic texture

The different parts of the music move together.



Monophonic texture

No accompaniment or harmony, just one line of melody

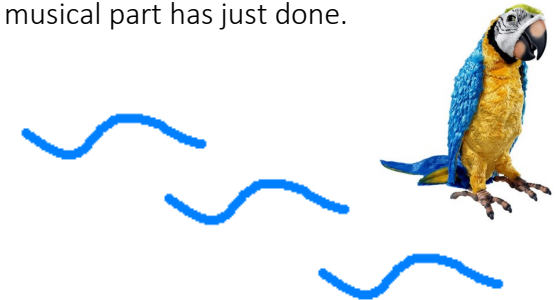


Melody

The tune!

Imitative texture

One part copies or repeats what another musical part has just done.



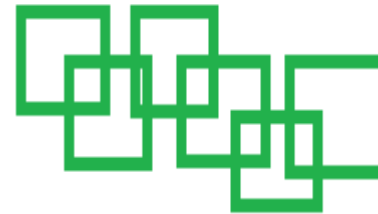
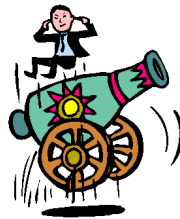
Octave texture

The pitch of the instruments or singers is an octave apart. (E.g. C and C above/below)



Canonic texture

Each part is the same and overlaps, but they start at different times (at regular intervals).



Heterophonic texture

Two or more slightly different versions of the same melody played at the same time



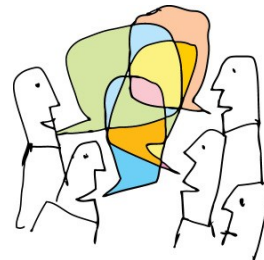
Layered texture

Sections of music that are repeated again and again are loops. When lots of loops are played at the same time this is layered texture.



Antiphonal texture

Two groups of musicians who take it in turns to play in a kind of musical conversation.



Polyphonic/contrapuntal texture

The different parts of the music are interwoven and are equally important. Different sounds at the same time.



Conjunct melody

Smooth, moves by step



Disjunct melody

Lots of jumps and leaps



Ornamentation

The decoration of the melody, e.g. trills



Phrasing/articulation

Describes *how* the melody should sound.

Legato – smoothly

Staccato- shorted and detached (dots above notes)

Slur- very smooth, no gaps

Sforzando- suddenly and quickly strong and loud

Slide/glissando/portamento

These words all describe sliding from one note to another, used by singers and instruments. Sometimes the notes in between are played during the slide.

Inversion

When a melody is turned upside down.



Melody with accompaniment

Melody with instruments or singers accompanying to provide harmony.

Melodic sequence

When a melody is repeated at different pitches

Chromatic melody

Uses some notes that don't belong to the scale

Ostinato/ riff

Short repeated pattern

Modal melody

Uses notes from the ancient scales called modes

Whole tone melody

Uses notes from the whole tone scale- no semitones

Passing notes

Notes in between the main notes.

Harmonic sequence

When a pattern of chords is repeated

Arpeggio

The first chord of a key, with the last note played on top. E.g. in the key of C major, this would be C E G C.

Diminution

When a melody is made shorter by taking notes away of making them shorter

Pentatonic melody

Uses notes from the pentatonic scale (5 notes within an octave)

Augmentation

When a melody is made longer by adding notes or making the notes longer

Pitch bend

When the pitch of a note is raised or lowered slightly, e.g. on a guitar

Acicaccaturas and Appoggiaturas

Ornaments- used to decorate the melody. Short notes played quickly before the main notes of the melody.

Improvisation

Creating new music, on the spot. Make it up as you go along. Used a lot in jazz



Triadic melody

Uses notes of a triad, e.g. CEG

Indian



sarangi

tabla

shehnai

zither

Sitar

Bansuri



A FEW BRASS INSTRUMENTS



trumpet

tuba

French horn

trombone

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Violin

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Strings

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double-Bass Harp, Mandolin, Lute, Guitars

Percussion

Triangle, Timpani, Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Cymbals, Bass drum, Tambourine, Snare drum



xylophone

glockenspiel

tambourine

cymbals

timpani

snare drum

triangle

bass drum

Bassoon

Saxophone

Oboe



Clarinet

Flute


Woodwind

Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Piccolo


Brass

Trombone, Trumpet, French horn, Tuba


African




Zurna




Oud




Mbira



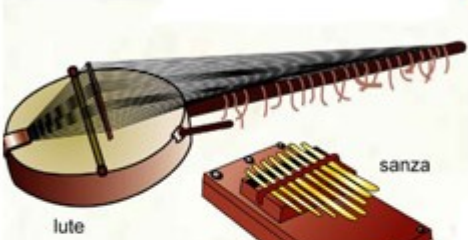
Kora




Doubek




Djembe




lute



sanza



balafon



ivory horn

Caribbean



Congas



Steel Pans





Giro



Guitar

Dynamics

How loud or soft the music is

pp	Pianissimo	Very quiet
P	Piano	Quiet
mp	Mezzo piano	Fairly quiet
mf	Mezzo forte	Fairly loud
f	Forte	Loud
ff	Fortissimo	Very Loud
	crescendo	Gradually getting louder
	diminuendo	Gradually getting quieter
sfz	sforzando	Strong attack to a note, or suddenly loud

Timbre

The unique quality of sound produced by different instruments. What makes instruments sound different.

Portamento

Sliding between two notes rather than sudden change of pitch

Vocal music

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Vocal techniques

Falsetto
Very high adult male voice

Vibrato
Variation of pitch, sounds in-tense, used a lot in opera and on string Instruments

Reverb.
Electronically adding an echo effect

Distortion
Electronically making the timbre sound aggressive and harsh

Chorus
Electronically manipulating the sound to give the impression of many sound sources

Structure

The overall shape of the music, how the sections are put together

Binary form

Music with two contrasting sections, each repeated.

AABB



Ternary form

Music with three sections, 1st section repeated at the end.

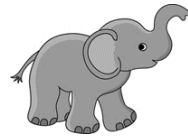
ABA



Theme & variations

Music with a main idea which is then varied.

A A1 A2 A3 A4



Main theme



Variation 1



Variation 2



Variation 3

da capo aria

Instruction of “da capo” means repeat section A with decoration

A B A1

Cadenza

Music at the end of a section or piece, where the soloist shows off



Ground bass

Repeated bass part, usually 8 bars long. The melody above plays a theme and lots of variations.

No gaps between variations

32-bar song form

Four x 8 bar sections
 Sections 1, 2 and 4 = main theme
 Section 3 – contrast
 AABA structure
 ‘Somewhere over the rainbow’ is a 32 bar song

Through-composed

Each verse has different music, no repetition.



‘Bohemian rhapsody’ by Queen is an example of a through composed song.

Rondo form

The main theme is repeated after contrasting sections.

A B A C A D



Diagram of a Typical Rondo Movement

Middle 8

8 bar contrasting section so verse/chorus doesn't get boring

Coda/Outro

The ending, can be dramatic and sudden or fade out

Arch-shape

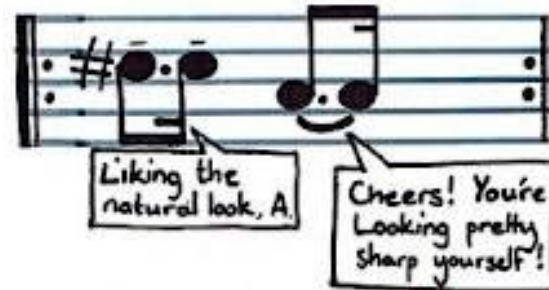
A shape of a melody, it finishes how it starts. Symmetrical, adds balance.



'Twinkle twinkle little star' in an arch shape melody.

Call & response

A musical conversation, question and answer.



Pop ballad

Songs that tell stories, each verse has same rhythm and same melody



'Take a bow' by Rihanna is a pop ballad.

Vesre/Chorus

Verse – same tune different lyrics
Chorus – main part, catchy, same tune, same lyrics.

Sonata form

Exposition, Development, Recapitulation. Often used in first movement of symphonies or concertos

Sonata form is very similar to Ternary form. Each section is a full piece of music instead of just one musical sentence (phrase)

Scherzo & trio

A scherzo means joke in Italian, it sounds faster and lighter.

Strophic form

Each verse has the same melody but different lyrics.
 Amazing Grace is an example of a strophic form song.

Minuet & trio

Minuet is elegant dance in 3/4 time in binary form.
 The trio contrasts in key, and has 3 instruments playing.
 The minuet plays again after the trio to finish the piece.

Continuo

Continuous bass part. One instrument plays the chords. Uses figured bass notation. Often played by a harpsichord. The Cello or Double Bass can also play the Continuo part

