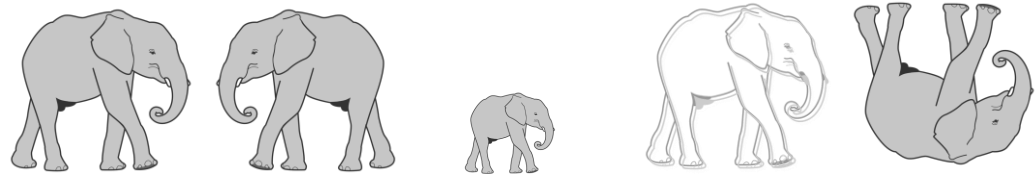


# VARIATIONS: Year 9

## A. Theme and Variations Key Words

**MELODY** – A tune or succession of notes, varying in pitch, that have an organised and recognizable shape. Often called the main **TUNE** or **THEME** of a piece of music or song and easily remembered.

**VARIATION** – Where a **THEME** is altered or changed musically, while retaining some of the primary elements, notes and structure of the original. **VARIATION FORM:**



A (Theme) A1 (Variation) A2 (Variation) A3 (Variation) A4 (Variation)

## B. Augmentation and Diminution – Note Values and Duration

**AUGMENTATION** – the process of **DOUBLING** the note values (**DURATION**) of a theme as a means of variation.



**DIMINUTION** – the process of **HALVING** the note values (**DURATION**) of a theme as a means of variation.

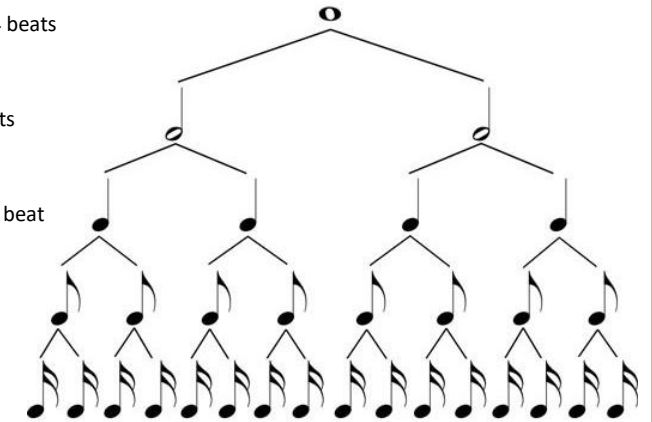
SEMIBREVE = 4 beats

MINIM = 2 beats

CROTCHET = 1 beat

QUAVER = ½ beat

SEMIQUAVER = ¼ beat



## C. Variation Techniques

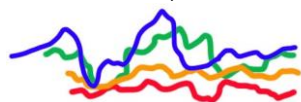
**PITCH** – Change the highness or lowness of the theme – play the same notes, but at different pitches e.g. in different **OCTAVES**.

**TEMPO** – Change the speed of the theme – play it faster or slower.

**DYNAMICS** – Change the volume of the theme – play it louder or softer.



**TEXTURE** – Change the amount of sound we hear – play as a **SOLO**, add an **ACCOMPANIMENT** or **CHORDS**, add a **COUNTER-MELODY** (an 'extra' melody that is played or sung at the same time as the main melody, often higher in pitch and sometimes called a **DESCANT**).



**TIMBRE AND SONORITY** – Change the way the theme is played – smoothly (**LEGATO** – shown by a **SLUR**) or short, detached and spiky (**STACCATO** – shown by a dot).



**ARTICULATION** – Change the way the theme is played – smoothly (**LEGATO** – shown by a **SLUR**) or short, detached and spiky (**STACCATO** – shown by a dot).

**PEDAL** – A long (often very long!) note in the bass line of the music over which other parts, including the theme or a variation of the theme can be played. Also called a **PEDAL NOTE** or **PEDAL POINT** and often the **TONIC** note (but can be the **DOMINANT** or other notes).

**DRONE** – A long or series of repeated (often long) notes using the **TONIC** and **DOMINANT** notes together (a **FIFTH**).

**MELODIC DECORATION** – Adding extra notes or embellishments to the theme such as trills, turns, mordents (**ORNAMENTS**) or **PASSING NOTES** (extra notes between the main melody notes).

**OSTINATO** – Adding a repeated musical pattern (rhythmic or melodic) to the main theme as a form of variation.

**CANON/ROUND** – A song or piece of music in which different performers sing or perform the same **THEME** starting one after the other.



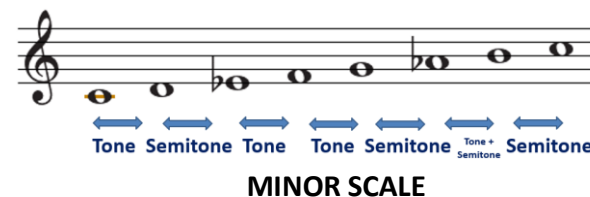
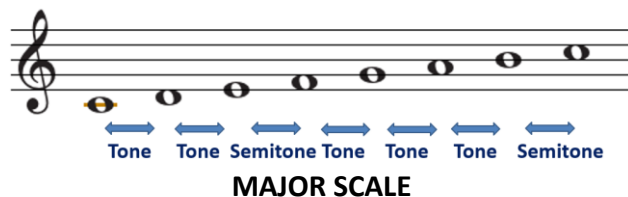
**GROUND BASS** – A repeated musical pattern in the bass part upon which chords, and melodies can be performed and varied "over the top" of.



## D. Tonality – Major and Minor



**TONALITY** refers to whether a **THEME** or **MELODY** is in a **MAJOR** or **MINOR** key. Changing the tonality from major to minor or minor to major is one way of providing a variation on the theme of melody. Major and minor scales follow a certain pattern of tones and semitones:



## E. Inversion and Retrograde

**INVERSION** – Changing the **INTERVALS** between the notes of a theme so that they are upside down from the original.

**RETROGRADE** – A variation technique created by arranging the main theme backwards.

**RETROGRADE INVERSION** – Arranging the "inverted" variation of the theme backwards!



# POP MUSIC: Christmas Song Composing

## A. Popular Song Structure

**SONG STRUCTURE** – How a song is made up of or divided into different sections (see below) and the order in which these sections occur. To work out the structure of a song, it's helpful to analyse the **LYRICS** and listen to a recording for the song (for instrumental sections).

**INTRO** – often shortened to 'intro', the first section of a song which sets the mood of the song and is sometimes, but not always, an instrumental section using the song's chord pattern.

**VERSES** – songs normally have several verses. Verses introduce the song's theme and have the same melody but different lyrics for each verse which helps develop the song's narrative and story. Songs made up entirely of verses are called **STROPHIC**.

**LINK** – a optional short section often used to join different parts of a song together, often instrumental, and sometimes joins verses together or appears at other points within a song.

**PRE-CHORUS** – an optional section of music that occurs before the **CHORUS** which helps the music move forward and "prepare" for what is to come.

**CHORUS** – occurs several times within a song and contains the most memorable **HOOK/RIFF**. The chorus relays the message of the song and is repeated with the same melody and lyrics each time it is heard. In popular songs, the chorus is often repeated several times towards the end of the song.

**MIDDLE 8/BRIDGE** – a section (often 8 bars in length) that provides contrasting musical material often featuring an instrumental or vocal solo using new musical material allowing the performer to display their technical skill on their instrument or voice.

**CODA/OUTRO** – The final section of a popular song which brings it to an end (Coda is Italian for "tail"!)

## B. Key Words

**LYRICS** – The words of a song, usually consisting of **VERSES** and a **CHORUS**.

**HOOK** – A 'musical hook' is usually the 'catchy bit' of the song that you will remember. It is often short and used and repeated in different places throughout the piece. Hooks can be either **MELODIC, RHYTHMIC** or **VERBAL/LYRICAL**.

**RIFF** – A repeated musical pattern often used in the introduction and instrumental breaks in a song or piece of music. Riffs can be rhythmic, melodic or lyrical, short and repeated.

**MELODY** – The main tune of the song often sung by the **LEAD SINGER**.

**COUNTER-MELODY** – An 'extra' melody often performed 'on top of' the main melody that 'fits' with it a **DESCANT** or **INSTRUMENTAL SOLO**.

**TEXTURE** – The layers that make up a song e.g., *Melody, Counter-Melody, Hooks/Riffs, Chords, Accompaniment, Bass Line*.

## C. Lead Sheet Notation and Arrangements

A **LEAD SHEET** is a form of musical **NOTATION** that contains only the essential elements of a popular song such as the **MELODY, LYRICS, RIFFS, CHORDS**

(often as guitar chord symbols) and **BASS LINE**; it is not as developed as a **FULL SCORE ARRANGEMENT** and is open to interpretation by

performers who need to use and adapt the given elements to create their own musical **ARRANGEMENT**: their "version" of an existing song.

**COVER (VERSION)** – A new performance, remake or recording by someone other than the original artist or composer of the song.

The image shows a lead sheet for Ed Sheeran's 'Shape of You'. It includes the title, artist, and songwriter (Ed Sheeran). The sheet contains musical notation for the melody, bass line, and guitar chords. The melody is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass line is written in bass clef. The guitar chords are written as letters (e.g., G, A, C, D, E, F#) above the staff. There are also some lyrics written below the melody.

## D. Conjunct and Disjunct Melodic Motion

**CONJUNCT MELODIC MOTION** – Melodies which move mainly by step or use notes which are next to or close to one another.

**DISJUNCT MELODIC MOTION** – Melodies which move mainly by leap or use notes which are not next to or close to one another.

**MELODIC RANGE** – The distance between the lowest and highest pitched notes in a melody.

The image shows two examples of melodic motion. The first is labeled 'Conjunct' and shows a melody in 4/4 time with notes moving mostly by step (adjacent notes on the staff). The second is labeled 'Disjunct' and shows a melody in 4/4 time with notes moving by leaps (non-adjacent notes on the staff).

## E. Song Timbre and Sonority (Instruments that are used to Accompany Songs)



Pop Bands often feature a **DRUM KIT** and **PERCUSSION** to provide the rhythm along with **ELECTRIC GUITARS (LEAD GUITAR, RHYTHM GUITAR and BASS GUITAR)** and **KEYBOARDS**. Sometimes **ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS** are used such as



the **PIANO** or **ACOUSTIC GUITAR**. **ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS** are often found in pop songs such as the **STRINGS, SAXOPHONE, TROMBONE** and **TRUMPET**. Singers are essential to a pop song - **LEAD SINGER** – Often the "frontline" member of the band (most famous) who sings most of the melody line to the song. **BACKING SINGERS** support the lead singer providing **HARMONY** or a **COUNTER-MELODY** (a melody that is often higher in pitch and different, but still

'fits with' the main melody) and do not sing all the time but just at certain points within a pop song e.g. in the chorus.

# POP MUSIC: Protest Song Cover Versions

## A. Popular Song Structure

**SONG STRUCTURE** – How a song is made up of or divided into different sections (see below) and the order in which these sections occur. To work out the structure of a song, it's helpful to analyse the **LYRICS** and listen to a recording for the song (for instrumental sections).

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**MIDDLE 8/BRIDGE** – a section (often 8 bars in length) that provides contrasting musical material often featuring an instrumental or vocal solo using new musical material allowing the performer to display their technical skill on their instrument or voice.

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The image shows a lead sheet for Ed Sheeran's 'Shape of You'. It includes the title, artist, and genre. The notation consists of a melody line in treble clef with lyrics underneath, a bass line in bass clef, and guitar chords indicated by letters (E, A, C, G, D) above the staff. There are also sections for 'Solo' and 'Guitar Chords' with specific chord diagrams.

## D. Conjunct and Disjunct Melodic Motion

**CONJUNCT MELODIC MOTION** – Melodies which move mainly by step or use notes which are next to or close to one another.

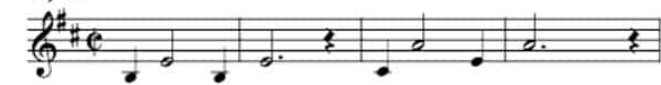
**DISJUNCT MELODIC MOTION** – Melodies which move mainly by leap or use notes which are not next to or close to one another.

**MELODIC RANGE** – The distance between the lowest and highest pitched notes in a melody.

Conjunct



Disjunct



## E. Song Timbre and Sonority (Instruments that are used to Accompany Songs)



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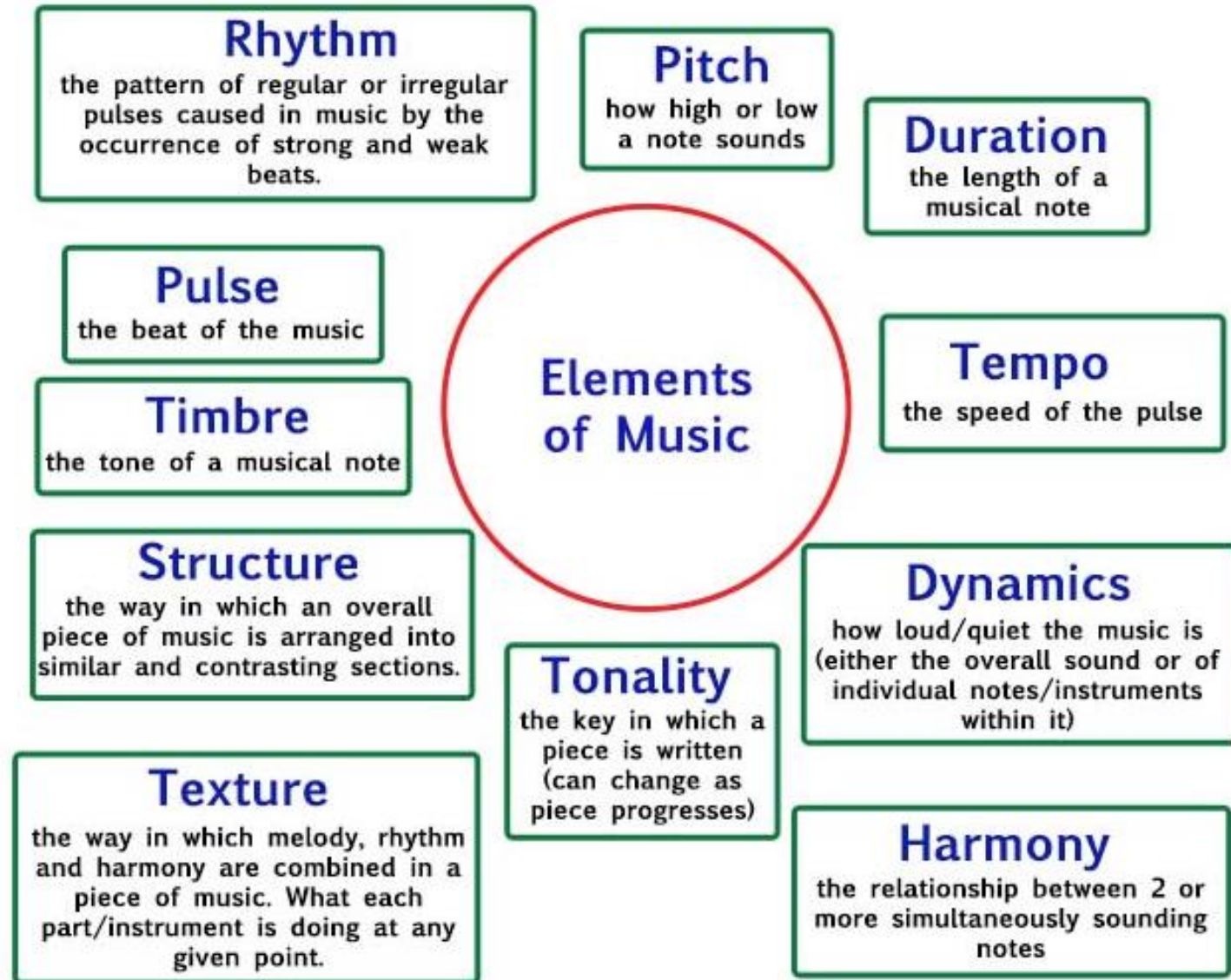


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# DR SMITH: ELEMENTS of MUSIC



# POP MUSIC: Own-Choice Cover Versions...looking to Year 10!

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The image shows two musical staves. The top staff is labeled 'Conjunct' and shows a melody in 4/4 time with notes moving primarily by step (e.g., G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4). The bottom staff is labeled 'Disjunct' and shows a melody in 4/4 time with notes moving by leaps (e.g., G4, B4, D5, G4, E4, C4, G2, E2, C2, G2, E2, C2).

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