

**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**

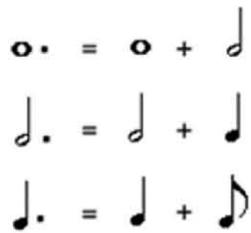
Has 2, 3 or 4 as number of beats in a bar (top number of time signature)

**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

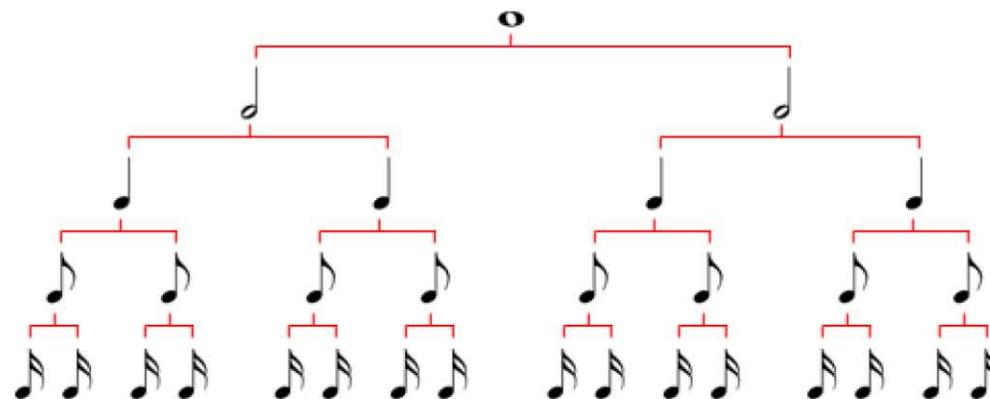
**Semibreves** 4 beats

**Minims** 2 beats

**Crotchets** 1 beat

**Quavers** ½ a beat

**Semiquavers** ¼ of a beat



**Pulse**

The steady beat

**Bi-rhythm**

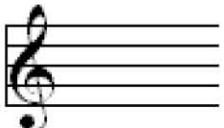
Two different rhythms from the same time signature played at the same time.

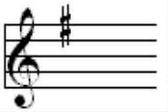
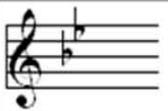
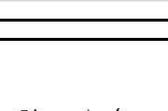
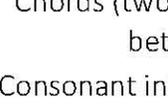
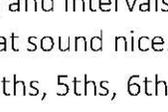
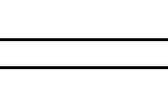
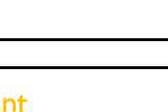
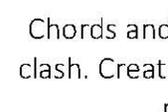
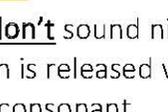
**Duration**

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**

	<b>G major</b>		<b>F major</b>
	<b>E minor</b>		<b>D minor</b>
	<b>D major</b>		<b>Bb major</b>
	<b>B minor</b>		<b>G minor</b>
	<b>A major</b>		<b>Eb major</b>
	<b>F# minor</b>		<b>C minor</b>
	<b>E major</b>		<b>Ab major</b>
	<b>C# minor</b>		<b>F minor</b>

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 7<sup>th</sup>** chords- the 5<sup>th</sup> chord of a scale, with an extra note (7<sup>th</sup> 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

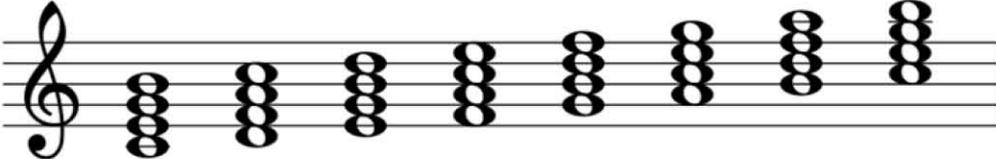
						
<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>

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 5<sup>th</sup> chord. E.g. music in C major would modulate to G major. G is the 5<sup>th</sup> chord of C major.

### Modulation to subdominant key

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

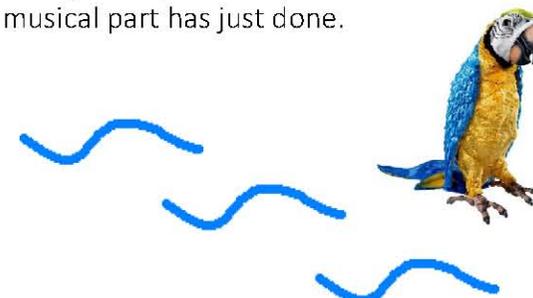


Melody

The tune!

Imitative texture

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



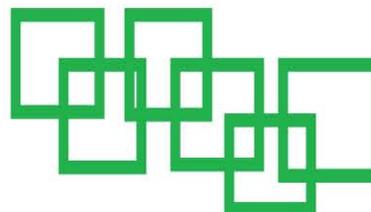
Octave texture

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).



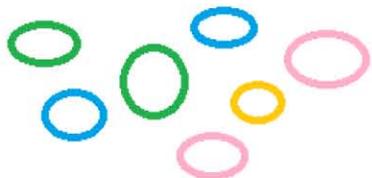
Heterophonic texture

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



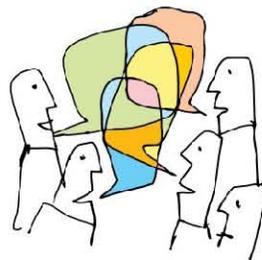
Layered texture

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.



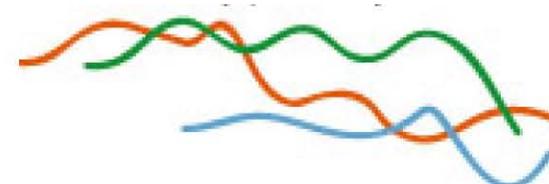
Antiphonal texture

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

Modal melody

Uses notes from the ancient scales called modes

Whole tone melody

Uses notes from the whole tone scale- no semitones

Chromatic melody

Uses some notes that don't belong to the scale

Ostinato/ riff

Short repeated pattern

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

Acciaccaturas 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

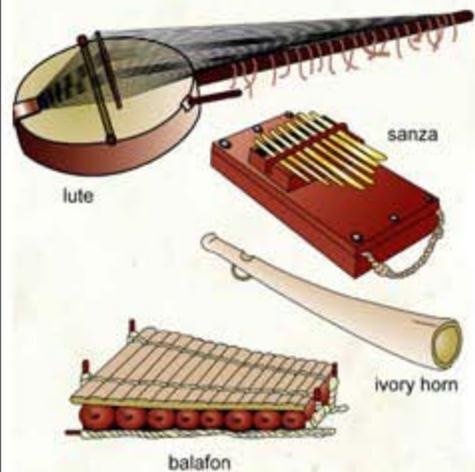
Woodwind

Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Piccolo

Brass

Trombone, Trumpet, French horn, Tuba

**African**



**Caribbean**



**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 intense, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> section repeated at the end.

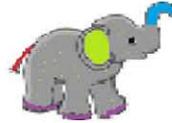
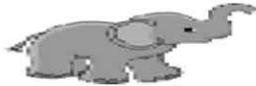
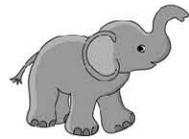
ABA



Theme & variations

Music with a main idea with 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 play 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

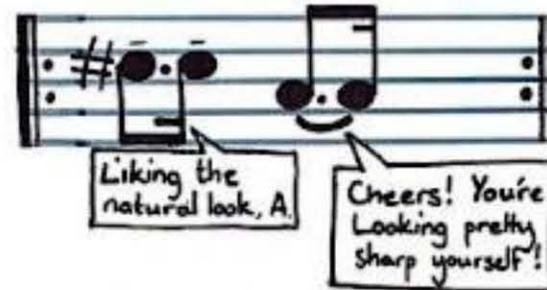
A shape of a melody, it finishes how it starts. Symmetrical, adds balance.



'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

