

Music – Year 7, Term 1 – Musical Elements and Musical Families

<p>Musical Elements 1 The ingredients that composers and performers use to create their music. There are EIGHT of them. RU2STPD to remember them?</p>	<p>Musical Families 1 The way a sound is produced determines which family an instrument belongs to.</p>
<p>Structure (Form) How music is ORGANISED into large and small SECTIONS, e.g. songs are often divided in to verses and choruses.</p>	<p>Strings- Bowed A horse-hair bow is drawn across a string (made from a variety of materials) across a wooden box: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass</p>
<p>Silence Musicians don't play non-stop! A short measured silence in a piece is called a REST. Silence is also needed immediately before and after a performance to indicate the start and end. Sudden silence can be used for dramatic effect.</p>	<p>Strings – Plucked Fingers pluck (or strum) strings made from metal or mad-made materials such as nylon: Guitar, Lute, Banjo, Harp, Harpsichord.</p>
<p>Timbre (Tone) The TYPE of SOUND (or quality), which is affected by the choice of individual or group of instruments and/or voices used in a piece. On keyboards the setting for timbre is VOICE.</p>	<p>Woodwind Edge Blown Player blow over the edge of a column to create the sound: Flute, Piccolo, Recorder, Pan Pipes, Swanee Whistle. Pipe Organ is blown by an air pump.</p>
<p>Texture This is to do with the quantity of sound, often described as the number of different layers involved. It is also related to how they move, e.g. together or separately. E.g. a song may have a Melody and an Accompaniment.</p>	<p>Woodwind – Single Reed A reed (thin slice of bamboo) vibrates against the players lip and a mouthpiece: Clarinet, Saxophone (note the saxophone is not a brass instrument, which is a common mistake some people make....but not you!!).</p>
<p>Pitch This is much more than just how high or low a sound is. Pitch produces scales, harmony, bass etc. all of which can affect the mood of a piece of music.</p>	<p>Woodwind – Double Reed Two reeds bound together (no mouthpiece): Oboe, Bassoon. Mouth organ (harmonica) has multiple reeds.</p>
<p>Pace This is the speed or Tempo of a piece of music. It is also how the pace changes, e.g. gradually or suddenly.</p>	<p>Brass Player's lips vibrate against a MOUTHPIECE attached to a TUBE (pipe) and a BELL: Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba.</p>
<p>Dynamics The volume or force of a sound. From soft to quiet. It is also how the volume changes, e.g. gradually or suddenly.</p>	<p>Percussion Tuned – these have many different pitches, used for Melody Instrument is hit with beaters called Mallets: Xylophone (wood), Glockenspiel (metal), Tubular Bells, Steel Pans, Timpani drums. Also the Piano, which has keys controlling the mallets (or hammers) to hit strings.</p>
<p>Duration The length of a sound (not quite the same as the speed). Different length notes combined create rhythm. Rhythms affect the style of a piece of music. Length of notes is measure in beats. NOTE LENGTHS TO ADD</p>	<p>Percussion Un-tuned – these have only one pitch, used for Rhythm Hit with beaters, shaken or scraped to produce the sound: Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Tom-tom, Bongos, tambourine, triangle, claves, cow bell, wood block, maracas, castanets, agogo, guiro and many more!</p>