

Music – Year 9, Term 1

<p>Musical Elements: the ingredients that composers and performers use to create their music. There are usually considered to be 8 of them (See below). Remember the pneumatic RU2STPD from year 7? Two being with S, two with T, two with P and 2 with D.</p>	<p>Musical Families 1: All sounds start with a vibration of some sort; the way that vibration is caused determines which family an instrument belongs to. There are SIX: Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Voice and Electronic. The instrument used affects the TIMBRE of the music.</p>
<p>Structure (Form) How music is organised into large and small sections. Common forms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binary Form (two sections, AB, common is traditional dance music), • Ternary Form (three sections ABA, which developed in to Sonata Form in the Classical period), Arch Form (a bit like a musical sandwich - ABCBA), • Rondo Form(a recurring theme and episodes ABACADA), • Theme and Variation (A, A1, A2, A3 etc), • Popular Song (Intro, Verses, Choruses, Middle 8, Outro). 	<p>Ensemble: a group of one or more instruments or singers playing together Orchestra: a large ensemble usually consisting of all four families of instruments, i.e. Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion String Quartet: 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello Brass Band: All brass (cornets, flugel horns, trombones, tenor and baritone horns, euphoniums and tubas) and some percussion Military Band/Wind Band: Woodwind, Brass and Percussion (no strings) Rock Band: standard line up is Lead Vocal, Backing vocals, Lead Guitar (plays the tune), Rhythm Guitar (plays the chords), Bass Guitar and Drum Kit.</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. Semibreve Rest  Minim Rest  Crotchet Rest  Quaver Rest </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. All of these have four strings which are tuned in intervals of a 5th apart, e.g. a violin has the strings G-D-A-E</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>Strings – Plucked Fingers pluck (or strum) strings made from metal or mad-made materials such as nylon: Guitar (6 strings), Lute, Banjo (4 strings, Harp (47 strings). The Harpsichord has keys like a piano, operating quills which pluck the strings.</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 Edge Blown Player blow over the edge of a column to create the sound: Flutes, Piccolo (high pitched flute)- also alto, tenor and even bass flutes Recorders (ranging from sopranino to bass), Pan Pipes, Swanee Whistle. The Pipe Organ is blown by an air pump; different “stops” add layers of voices.</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 – Single Reed A reed (thin slice of bamboo) vibrates against the players lip and a mouthpiece: Clarinets: range from standard Bb to a small Eb (higher pitch) to the Bass Clarinet. There is even a tenor clarinet called the Bassett Horn!</p>

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	Saxophones: range from standard Alto to a higher Soprano, down to Tenor and Baritone. There are (rare) bass and double bass saxophones too.
<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. Italian is the language used by musicians to instruct and describe Tempo. <i>Largo/Lento</i> Slow; <i>Adagio</i> quite slow; <i>Andante</i> Walking pace; <i>Moderato</i> Medium pace; <i>Allegretto</i>-quite Fast; <i>Allegro</i> Fast; <i>Vivace</i> Lively; <i>Presto</i> –quick <i>Accelerando</i> get gradually faster; <i>Rall or Rit</i> – get gradually slower.</p>	<p>Woodwind – Double Reed Two reeds bound together (no mouthpiece): Oboes are higher pitched (soprano), there is an alto oboe called the Cor Anglais Bassoons are in the lower (tenor) range, there is also a Double Bassoon (bass) Mouth organ (harmonica) has multiple reeds.</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. Italian is the language used by musicians to instruct and describe dynamics. Abbreviations are commonly used: <i>pp pianissimo</i>; <i>p piano</i>; <i>mp mezzo piano</i>; <i>mf mezzo forte</i>; <i>f forte</i>; <i>ff fortissimo</i> <i>pp very soft</i>; <i>p soft</i>; <i>mp half soft</i>; <i>mf half loud</i>; <i>f loud</i>; <i>ff very loud</i> crescendo - get gradually louder diminuendo get gradually softer subito - suddenly poco a poco little by little</p>	<p>Brass Player's lips vibrate against a MOUTHPIECE attached to a TUBE (pipe) and a BELL Orchestral brass are Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba. Brass Bands have Cornets, Flugel Horns, Euphoniums, Tenor and Baritone Horns, Trombones and Tubas. There is also a high pitched Soprano cornet. <i>The French Horn is actually German.....unlike the English Horn which is actually French!!! Music can be confusing sometimes ☺</i></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 measured in beats. </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. The Piano has keys controlling the mallets. Timpani- drums that can be tuned, usually at least two in an orchestra. Some more modern pieces have as many as five or six Timps. The pitches are changed by using a pedal to adjust the tension on the skin.</p>
<p>Voice Treble- Child's voice (male or female) Soprano - Higher female voice Alto – Lower female voice (Counter Tenor is a rare male equivalent) Tenor – higher male voice Bass – Lower male voice <i>Also Mezzo-Soprano, medium pitched female; Baritone, medium pitched male.</i></p>	<p>Percussion Un-tuned – these have only one pitch, used for Rhythm Hit with beaters, shaken or scraped: Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Tom-tom, Bongos, tambourine, triangle, claves, cow bell, wood block, maracas, castanets, agogo, guiro and many more! Drum Kit (or drum set) consisting of Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Tom-Toms, Hi-Hat cymbals and Ride (or crash) cymbal.</p>
<p>Electronic: Many instruments can have the sound electronically processed such as Electric Guitar (including Bass Guitar) needs an amplifier for volume Electronic Keyboard : uses pre-set and sampled sounds or “voices”</p>	

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Synthesiser: usually a keyboard, this can create new sounds and edit the sound wave properties.	
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