

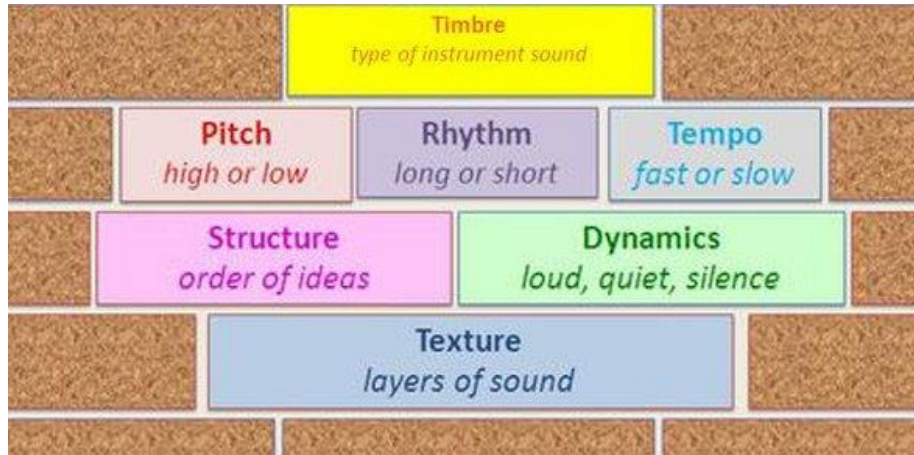


Music

A Glossary of Technical Vocabulary



Interrelated Dimensions of Music



Pulse – the regular heartbeat of the music; its steady beat.

Rhythm – long and short sounds or patterns that happen over the pulse.

Pitch – high and low sounds.

Tempo – the speed of the music; fast or slow or in-between.

Texture – layers of sound. Layers of sound working together make music very interesting to listen to.

Timbre – all instruments, including voices, have a certain sound quality e.g. the trumpet has a very different sound quality to the violin.

Dynamics – how loud or quiet the music is.

Structure – every piece of music has a structure e.g. an introduction, verse and chorus ending.

Notation – the link between sound and symbol.



Glossary of Musical Terms

(Based on Charanga Scheme)

A capella - Without accompaniment from musical instruments, ie voices only.

Appraising - Listening carefully.

Arrangement - How voices and instruments are used in a song; where they occur within the song.

Back beat - Beats 2 and 4 in a drum-line or if we are clapping along with the music.

Backing - The accompaniment to a song.

Balance - The level of volume at which players sing or play; if the balance is good then everyone can be heard.

Ballad - A gentle love song.

Band - Playing/singing/performing together.

Bridge/middle 8 - Contrasting section which leads back to main material.

Chord - More than one note played at the same time.

Chorus - A repeated section in a song which gives the main message.

Coda - Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.

Cover - A version of a song performed by someone other than the original artist that might sound a bit – or very – different.

Composing - Creating and developing musical ideas and 'fixing' these.

Crossover - Can be a mixture of different styles which introduces new music to different audiences.

Decks - Equipment used by DJs, MCs and Rappers to mix sounds from different records and to make effects like scratching. First used in the late 1970s.

Drum loops - A loop is a sequence of sounds/music that is recorded, maybe sampled, and reproduced digitally or electronically.

Dynamics - How loud or quiet the music is.

Ending - Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.

Ensemble - A French word used to describe playing/singing/performing together.

Groove - The rhythmic part of the music that makes you want to move and dance.

Harmony - Different notes sung or played at the same time, to produce chords.

Hook - A term used in pop music to describe a short catchy phrase or riff that we can't stop singing; the bit that 'hooks' us in; the main musical idea from a song that we remember.

Improvise - To make up a tune and play it on the spot; there is an assumption that it can never be recreated.

Interlude - A passage of music played between the main themes introduction Music heard at the beginning of a song or piece of music bridge; a section of music that can take us from a verse to a chorus, just as a bridge over a river takes us from one place to another.

Lyrics - The words of a song.

Melody - Another name for a tune.

Melodic - Melody or tune.

Notation - Ways to visually represent music.

Offbeat - If a piece of music has 4 beats in a bar ie 1 2 3 4, to clap on the offbeat you would clap on beats 2 and 4 not 1 and 3.

Original - The first ever version of a song.

Ostinato - A short repeated pattern.

Outro - Short section which brings the song or piece to an end.

Pentatonic scale - A fixed five-note pattern eg the five black keys on a piano.

Performing - Singing and playing instruments.

Phrase - A musical sentence.

Pitch - The range of high and low sounds.

Pre-chorus - A short section in a song, before the chorus.

Pulse/beat - The heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music.

Recurring theme - A tune that repeats again and again in a piece of music.

Rhythm - The combination of long and short sounds to make patterns.

Riff - A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.

Roots - Reggae Music that deals with social and racial issues and brings in elements of Rastafari.

Sampling - Record a sample of music, a small section, and re use it in another piece of music or song. Used frequently in hip hop and other pop music.

Secular - Non religious solo An Italian word used to describe playing/singing/performing on our own.

Structure/form/shape - How the sections (verses and choruses etc) of a song are ordered to make the whole piece.

Style - The type of music eg blues or rock.

Style indicators - Identifiers that show us the genre of the music.

Syncopation - Music with lots of rhythmic variety, often quite difficult. The strong beats occur in unexpected places.

Tag - (Usually) a short ending, tagged on to the main part of the song.

Tempo - An Italian word used to describe how fast/slow the music goes.

Texture - Layers of sound in music.

Timbre - The quality and character of the sound.

Urban - contemporary Modern music that uses elements of soul, hip hop, funk, jazz, R&B that appeals to young people.

Verse - A section in a song which has the same tune but different words.

