

Music Year 8 Knowledge Organiser

The Elements of Music.

Element	Definition
Duration	The length of the musical note
Dynamics	The volume – loud and soft
Harmony	The relationship between 2 or more notes together
Pitch	How high or low a note is
Pulse	The beat of the music
Rhythm	The pattern of beats
Structure	How the music is organised
Tempo	The speed of the music – how fast or slow
Texture	The layers of the music – thick or thin texture
Timbre	The tone and colour of the sound an instrument creates
Tonality	The key of the music



Key Word	Definition
12 Bar Blues	A 12 bar repeating chord sequence
Bhangra	Modern Bhangra is a fusion of traditional Indian and Pakistan music with Club Dance music
Blues Scale	C Eb F Gb G Bb C
C Chord	Notes C E G
Chord	A group of notes played at the same time
Chord sequence	A pattern of chords
Club Dance	Electronically produced music
Disco	Popular 70s Dance music
Drone	A long held note, usually in the bassline
F Chord	Notes F A C
G Chord	Notes G B D
Improvisation	Making a tune up on the spot
Inversion	The notes of a chord changed round
Key Signature	An instruction before the time signature to tell the key of the music
Major	Happy key
Minor	Sad key
Octave	Eight notes apart
Offbeat Chords	Chords played on beats 2 and 4
Ostinato	A musical pattern that repeats
Retrograde	Version of a tune played backwards
Riff	Repeated pattern
Salsa	Latin American Dance music
Scat Singing	Vocal improvisation with nonsense syllables or without words at all.

Ska and Rock Steady	Two styles of music that were the foundations of Reggae
Syncopation	Notes off the beat
Tango	A Latin American dance
Theme	Musical idea, main tune
Variation	A different version of the theme
Walking Bass	A Bass part that moves in crotchets
Waltz	Dance with an oom cha cha rhythm with three beats in a bar

Chords

Chords are an important part of music. A chord is where two or more notes are played together at the same time. Chords are very useful for accompaniment. Chords are often played on instruments such as the keyboard or guitar. Some notes in chords go really well together, others have clashing notes. This term focuses on chords that sound well together. As we go through year 8, chords will be used in a variety of styles of music. One particular genre of music that uses chords in a certain way is Jazz and Blues.

In the 1600s and 1700s, many Africans were captured and sold as slaves. As they were working on plantations under unpleasant conditions, they sang about their lives to help the time pass more quickly. They used their tools to create a beat. Although slavery was abolished, the music continued and led to using traditional blues instruments such as the harmonica, guitar, banjo, violin, piano, double bass and voice. By 1920s, blues was a very popular style of music. Over the years, this has evolved into various different styles. Jazz became popular in the early 20th century, with its roots attributed to Blues music.

One of the most popular types of blues is the twelve bar blues structure. This can be played in any key, but in C the chord sequence is as follows:

4	C	C	C	C
4	F	F	C	C
	G	F	C	C