

Music Year 9 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

The History of Music

Dates	Period	Key composers
Medieval	Up to 1400	Dunstable, Landini
Renaissance	1400 – 1600	Palestrina, Byrd, Dufay
Baroque	1600 – 1750	Monteverdi, Purcell, Vivaldi
Classical	1750 – 1810	Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven
Romantic	1810 – 1910	Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Brahms
Modern Music	1910 – Present day	Cage, Copland, Shostakovich



Key Word	Definition
12 Bar Blues	A 12 bar repeating chord sequence
A Capella	Unaccompanied singing
Accidental	A note that doesn't belong in the home key of the piece
Alto	Low female voice
Arpeggio	The notes of a chord played one after another
Bar Lines	Music is divided by bar lines into equal sections called bars
Baritone	Male voice that sings between Tenor and Bass
Bass	Low male voice
Bass Clef	Clef used for left hand piano
Binary	AB structure
Blues Scale	C Eb F GB G Bb C
Brass	Instrumental family including trumpet, trombone, French horn and tuba
Bridge	Section to link two parts together
Broken Chords	A chord that is broken up and played as a series of notes
C Chord	Notes C E G
Call and Response	A short melody following by an answering phrase
Choir	A group of singers
Chord	A group of notes played together at the same time
Chord sequence	A pattern of chords
Chorus	Repeated section in a song
Chromatic	Using all the black and white keys
Composer	A person who writes music
Composition	A piece of music
Conductor	Someone who leads the musicians

Crotchet	1 beat note
Dissonance	Unpleasant sound when notes played together don't fit together
Dotted Notes/Rests	If a dot is placed after a note or rest, it adds half as much again
Double Bar Lines	Found at the end of the music to signal the end
Drone	A long held note, usually in the bassline
Ensemble	A group of musicians performing together
Evaluation	To look at strengths and areas to improve in your work
F Chord	Notes F A C
Fade out	Where the music gets quieter and quieter at the end
Flat <i>b</i>	Black key
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
Ledger Line	An extra line that music sits on above or below the staff
Leitmotif	The main tune in a film that represents a character, idea or object
Lyrics	The words of the song
Major	Happy key
Melody	A tune or song
Mezzo Soprano	Female voice that sings between Soprano and Alto
Middle Eight	In the middle of the song, different chords or music
Minim	2 beat note
Minor	Sad key
Musical Alphabet	ABCDEFGG
Natural	Where a previous sharp or flat has been cancelled

Octave	Eight notes apart
Offbeat Chords	Chords played on beats 2 and 4
Orchestra	A large ensemble that covers all four instrumental families
Ostinato	A musical pattern that repeats
Passing Note	A note that links
Percussion	Instrumental family that includes drums, triangle, xylophone and timpani
Polyphonic	Where two or more different layers are played at the same time
Programme Music	Descriptive music that tells a story, sets a scene or describes something
Retrograde	Version of a tune played backwards
Riff	Repeated pattern
Rondo	ABACADA structure
Scale	A pattern of notes
Scat Singing	Vocal improvisation with nonsense syllables or without words at all.
Semibreve	4 beat note
Semitone	A distance in pitch between two immediate notes eg. C – C#
Sharp #	Black key
Ska and Rock Steady	Two styles of music that were the foundations of Reggae
Soprano	High female voice
Soundtrack	A recording of the musical accompaniment of a film
Stave	The 5 lines that music is written on
Strings	Instrumental family that includes violin, viola, cello and harp
Strophic	Same music, different words
Syncopation	Notes off the beat
Tenor	High male voice
Ternary	ABA structure







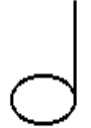















Theme	Musical idea, main tune
Through composed	Music is different in every verse
Ties	Curved line that joins two notes together of the same pitch
Time Signature	Tells you how many beats there are in a bar
Tone	A distance in pitch between two notes eg C – D (equals to two semitones)
Treble	Boy who sings at soprano pitch
Treble Clef	Clef used for right hand piano
Underscore	The music played underneath the action
Unison	Everyone plays or sings together at the same time
Variation	A different version of the theme
Verse	The words/story of the song
Voice	Our own instrument
Walking Bass	A Bass part that moves in crotchets
Woodwind	Instrumental family that includes clarinet, flute, oboe and bassoon

Film Music

The job of a film composer is to create music that accompanies the action on screen of a film. The leitmotif is the main tune that often occurs in various different formats in the film. Film composers often use repetition – this can help to link parts of the story. The mood of the music aims to clearly reflect what is happening. Sometimes, the music gives you an idea about what is going to happen. The type of instruments used in film music will depend on the story and where it is set. A composer will choose instruments carefully to give you a sense of time and place. The aim of the music is to create the right atmosphere. There may be use of sound effects and computer generated sounds. It's important that a film composer is able to time their work accurately to fit the film.

General Music Revision

On a piano, there are white keys and black keys. The white keys are ABCDEFG – this is the musical alphabet. The black keys are grouped in twos and threes and these are called sharps and flats. The note C is found to the left of the two black keys. Music is written on lines and spaces. This is known as the staff.

Name of Note	The Note	Value	Rest	If a dot is placed after a note or rest, it adds half as much again.			
Semibreve		4			4 Beats		6 Beats
Minim		2			2 Beats		3 Beats
Crotchet		1			1 Beat		1 1/2 Beats
Quaver		1/2			2 Beats of silence		3 Beats of silence
Semi-quaver		1/4			4 Beats of silence		6 Beats of silence
Demisemi-quaver		1/8					

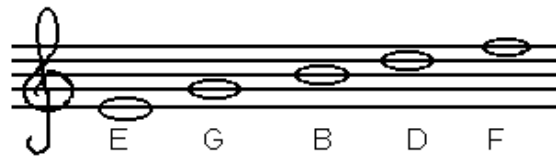
Treble Clef – for high notes



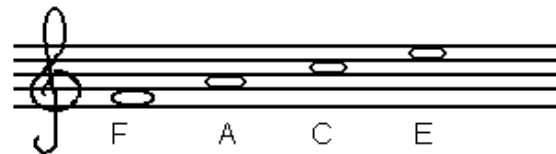
Bass Clef – for low notes



Some notes in music, for example Middle C sit on extra lines; these are called LEGER/LEDGER LINES. The musical alphabet consists of A B C D E F G, this pattern is repeated.

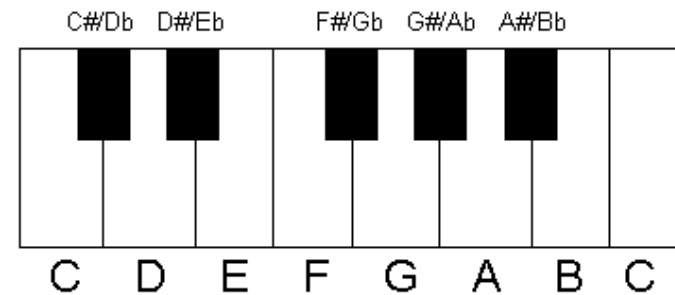


Remember the rhyme Every Good Boy Deserves Football for the notes on the lines.



Remember FACE for the notes in the spaces.

The Keyboard



Each black note has a sharp name and a flat name. Both notes sound the same, but it is a different way to describe the note.

Sharp (higher than)

b Flat (lower than)

Italian words

In music, we use Italian words to explain HOW to play a piece.

Tempo

Lento	Slowly
Largo	Slow and stately
Adagio	Leisurely
Andante	At a walking pace
Allegro	Fast
Presto	Very quickly
Prestissimo	As fast as possible

Dynamics

Pianissimo <i>pp</i>	Very soft
Piano <i>p</i>	Soft
Mezzopiano <i>mp</i>	Moderately soft
Mezzoforte <i>mf</i>	Moderately loud
Forte <i>f</i>	Loud
Fortissimo <i>ff</i>	Very loud
Crescendo <	Getting gradually louder
Diminuendo >	Getting gradually softer