



RHYTHM, METRE AND TEMPO

MUSICAL TERM	DEFINITION/EXAMPLE
Downbeats	First beat in a bar
Allegro	Fast
Adagio	slow
Pulse	The beats you feel in the music and often tap along to.
Beats	The counts in a bar.
Accelerando	Getting faster
Rallentando	Slowing down
Metre	Regularly recurring patterns
Simple time	Where the beats of a bar can be divided into groups of 2s. E.g 3/4 4/4
Compound time	Where the beats of a bar can be divided into 3s. E.g 6/8 9/4
Syncopation	When a note is played off beat to the music.

PITCH AND MELODY

MUSICAL TERM	DEFINITION/EXAMPLE
Pentatonic scale	Scale that fits in a circle of fifths. The notes include C,D,E,G,A
Major and minor	Major is often seen as a happy scale and minor as sad scale.
Diatonic scale	Scale that includes five whole steps (whole tones) and two half steps (semitones) in each octave

STRUCTURE AND FORM

MUSICAL TERM	DEFINITION/EXAMPLE
Call and response	Direct repetition of a phrase.
Ostinato	Short phrase repeated throughout the piece.
Ternary form	Structure A-B-A in a piece.



DYNAMICS AND ARTICULATION

MUSICAL TERM	DEFINITION/EXAMPLE
Forte	Loud
Piano	Quiet
Crescendo	Getting louder
Diminuendo	Getting quieter
Legato	Smooth
Staccato	Detached
Fortissimo	Very loud
Pianissimo	Very quiet
Mezzo forte	Fairly loud
Mezzo piano	Fairly quiet

HARMONY

MUSICAL TERM	DEFINITION/EXAMPLE
Drone	Long, low sustained note.
Static	Harmony lasts the same time throughout, e.g. same 4 beats.
Triads	Harmony comes from the 3 notes of the chord.
Chord progressions	A repeated chord sequence throughout the piece.

TEXTURE

MUSICAL TERM	DEFINITION/EXAMPLE
Unison	All parts are playing the same thing together.
Layered	Parts are moving at different times.
Duet	Two parts
Melody and accompaniment	Someone on main line and the other accompanying them.



INSTRUMENTAL TECHNIQUES

MUSICAL TERM	DEFINITION/EXAMPLE
Pizzicato	Plucking strings
Tremolo	Rapid repetition of one note
Glissando	Sliding between notes

TIMBRE

The character or quality of a musical sound or voice as distinct from its pitch and intensity.

Examples of timbre are **the ways used to describe the sound**, so words such as Light, Flat, Smooth, Smoky, Breathy, Rough, and so on are what you use to distinguish one sound from another. How you recognize the different sounds or voices you hear is attributed to the timbre