



Music Department



Concepts List

Name : _____

Google "Learn Listening Online" to revise & listen to all concepts

Also

Go to <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqmusic/index.asp>

Valid from 2013 onwards

MELODY/HARMONY

Words in this section describe what is happening in the melody or 'tune'.

The melody can move in a variety of ways:-

ASCENDING	Moving in an upward direction	<input type="checkbox"/>
DESCENDING	Moving in a downward direction	<input type="checkbox"/>
STEP/STEPWISE	Moving by step to the note directly above or below	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEAP/LEAPING	Jumping between high notes and low notes	<input type="checkbox"/>

The melody can move in patterns:-

REPETITION	Musical idea heard more than once in exactly the same way by exactly that same Instrument / voice	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEQUENCE	A pattern of notes repeated higher or lower	<input type="checkbox"/>
QUESTION	An opening phrase in a melody	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANSWER	Reply to an opening phrase or musical answer	<input type="checkbox"/>

The melody can be measured in distance:-

SEMITONE	The shortest distance in music - half a tone C to C# or B to Bb, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
TONE	An interval of 2 semitones, e.g. from C to D or F to G etc	<input type="checkbox"/>

OCTAVE

The distance of 8 notes.

The melody can be decorated in order to make it more interesting:-

PITCH BEND

To slide up or down into a note. Often as guitarists bend strings or a trombone player slides between notes.

ORNAMENT

A decoration added to the melody using different or additional notes

GRACE-NOTE

A type of ornament played quickly before the note. Used mainly as a decoration

GLISSANDO

Rapid sliding up or down the notes
Popular on piano, harp and trombone

TRILL

A rapid repeated movement between 2 notes



Melodies can be played using different scales:-

SCALE

A series of notes, in order, often alphabetical.
A scale is made up of a pattern of tones and semitones.

CHROMATIC

A scale built entirely on semitones



PENTATONIC SCALE

A scale based on 5 notes. Very popular in folk Music

WHOLE TONE SCALE

A scale built entirely on tones. Popular in 20th Century music and sometimes sounds strange to the ear.



ATONAL

Music based on no particular key. Sounds dissonant and is hard to listen to. Very popular in 20th Cent.

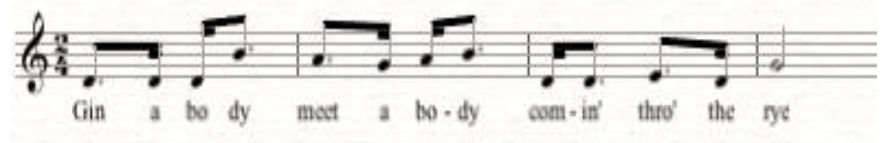
MODULATION

Moving from a higher key to a lower key and vice versa

In vocal music we can describe the word setting of melodies as follows:-

SYLLABIC

One note for each syllable.



MELISMATIC

Several notes sung to one syllable



SCAT SINGING

Nonsense words and sounds made up by a singer usually found in JAZZ music.

Harmony can be split into two areas of TONALITY:-

TONALITY	Whether the music is major or minor or atonal.	<input type="checkbox"/>
MAJOR	The music sounds in a major key - bright and happy sounding	<input type="checkbox"/>
MINOR	The music sounds in a minor key - sad and dull sounding	<input type="checkbox"/>

Harmony is built in the following way:-

CHORD	Two or more notes sounding together	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHORD CHANGE	Moving from 1 chord to a different chord	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHORD PROGRESSION	A series of chords, often repeated, forming the basis of most musical sections (e.g. a verse or chorus). Often called a chord pattern.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHORDS I, IV, V and VI	In a MAJOR key Chord I (one), chord IV (four) and chord V (five) are major and chord VI (six) is minor.	<input type="checkbox"/>
DISCORD	A chord in which certain notes clash producing an unpleasant sound. Popular in 20 th Century music	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROKEN CHORD	Notes of the chord played separately	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARPEGGIO	Notes of the chord played one after the other - can be spread beyond an octave	<input type="checkbox"/>
VAMP	A rhythmic accompaniment with a bass note played on the strong beat and a chord played off the beat.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLUSTER	A group of notes played on a keyboard instrument with the palm of the hand. A 20 th Century technique - harsh on the ear	<input type="checkbox"/>

DESCANT (voice) Another melody above the main tune, mainly in vocal music

COUNTERMELODY A melody played against the main melody

CONTRARY MOTION Two parts moving in opposite directions e.g. one ascending, one descending

PEDAL A note which is held or repeated continuously in the bass part while the harmony changes over it

INVERTED PEDAL A note which is held or repeated continuously in the upper part while the harmony changes below it

Harmony changes in the following way:-

MODULATION A change of key

Concepts affecting harmony are:-

PERFECT CADENCE 2 chords at the end of a phrase. Chord V to chord I - the dominant to the tonic.



IMPERFECT CADENCE

2 chords at the end of a phrase.
Chord I to chord V - the tonic to the dominant.
This cadence has an unfinished feel



DRONE

One note held on or repeated in the bass.
Commonly found on a bagpipe.

IMPROVISATION

Music made up on the spot by the performer

RHYTHM/TEMPO

Words in this section describe what is happening in the rhythm and tempo

Rhythm falls into 2 areas:-

SIMPLE TIME

Music with 2, 3 or 4 beats in the bar.
Each beat is usually 1 crotchet.
Time signatures could be 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 etc.

COMPOUND TIME

Each beat is divided into groups of 3 pulses. Time signatures could be 6/8 9/8 or 12/8 etc.

Speed changes are described in the following way:-

SLOWER/FASTER

The tempo of the music gets slower or faster.

ACCELERANDO

Music gets gradually faster

RALLENTANDO (rall.)

Music gets gradually slower, often happens at the end of a piece.

RITARDANDO (rit.)

Music slows down, seemingly "held back" and may happen anywhere in the music.

RUBATO

The performer plays in a very free way and is able to pull the music about to suit the situation

A TEMPO

Returns to the previous tempo after a change.

Rhythm effects can be described in the following way:-

BAR	A section of musical time, divided by Bar lines and separated into a number of beats in a bar, e.g. 2 beats in a bar.	<input type="checkbox"/>
ON THE BEAT	The main accents are on the beat	<input type="checkbox"/>
OFF THE BEAT	The main accents are on the weak beat or against the beat	<input type="checkbox"/>
SYNCOPATION	Accented notes playing off or against The beat. Same as above	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOTCH SNAP	A rhythmic figure with a short accented note followed by a longer note. Mostly found in a Strathspey	<input type="checkbox"/>
CROSS RHYTHMS	Effect where 2 notes are played against 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOTTED RHYTHMS	Long notes followed by short notes and vice versa giving a jolty effect	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANACRUSIS	Notes which appear before the first strong beat of the bar. Almost like a very short lead-in.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rhythmic features of Scottish dance styles:

JIG	A fast Scottish dance in compound time	<input type="checkbox"/>
MARCH	Music with a strong steady pulse with two or four beats in the bar	<input type="checkbox"/>
STRATHSPEY	A Scottish dance with four beats in the bar featuring dotted rhythms and a Scotch Snap	<input type="checkbox"/>
REEL	A fast Scottish dance in simple time with two or four beats in the bar.	<input type="checkbox"/>

WALTZ	A dance in simple time with three beats in the bar.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Concepts affecting the rhythm:-</i>		
ADAGIO	Slow, stately tempo	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANDANTE	Walking pace, medium tempo	<input type="checkbox"/>
MODERATO	A moderate, medium pace. A bit livelier than andante.	<input type="checkbox"/>
ALLEGRO	Fast, quickly and bright	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRUM FILL	A rhythmic decoration played on the drumkit	<input type="checkbox"/>
BEAT/PULSE	The basic pulse you hear in music. The pulse may be in groups of 2, 3 or 4 with an accent or stress on the first beat of each bar	<input type="checkbox"/>
PAUSE	The musical flow / rhythm is held up by a long note or silence	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCENT/ACCENTED	Notes that are slightly stressed sounding louder than others.	<input type="checkbox"/>
REPETITION	A section repeated in exactly the same way by exactly the same instrument.	<input type="checkbox"/>

TEXTURE/STRUCTURE/FORM

Words in this section describe how a piece of music is put together or constructed

All music falls into one of 3 categories

POLYPHONIC	Texture consisting of two or more melodic lines which weave independently of each other	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTRAPUNTAL	Similar to above	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOMOPHONIC	Texture where all the parts move together rhythmically	<input type="checkbox"/>

These categories are either

ACCOMPANIED	One or more instruments / voices support the main melody	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNACCOMPANIED	The melody is not supported by any other instruments or voices	<input type="checkbox"/>

Music is constructed in the following ways

SOLO	Single line / performer	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNISON	Two or more parts performing the same named note at the same pitch.	<input type="checkbox"/>
OCTAVE	Two or more parts performing the same named note at the same pitch or 8 notes apart	<input type="checkbox"/>
HARMONY	Two or more parts performing different notes at the same time	<input type="checkbox"/>
EPISODE	A section linking two appearances of the same material.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Music is also constructed using different sections

REPETITION	A section repeated in exactly the same way by exactly the same instrument	<input type="checkbox"/>
IMITATION	Musical idea played by one instrument / voice And then repeated exactly the same way by another instrument / voice	<input type="checkbox"/>
OSTINATO / RIFF	A short musical pattern repeated many times	<input type="checkbox"/>
BINARY	A form where the music is made up from 2 sections - A & B	<input type="checkbox"/>
TERNARY	A form where the music is made up from 3 sections - A B A	<input type="checkbox"/>
RONDO	A form in music where the first section comes back after each contrasting section A B A C A D A E A etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
THEME AND VARIATIONS	A form in music where each section changes the main theme through speed, tonality, time signature or rhythm	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROUND	Each part sings or plays the melody entering one after the other	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANON	Strict imitation where one part sings or plays the melody with another part entering shortly afterwards with exactly the same melody	<input type="checkbox"/>
VERSE	Repeated section of a song, usually with different lyrics each time.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHORUS	Repeated section of a song, often contains song title in the lyrics and usually the lyrics repeat each time.	<input type="checkbox"/>
MIDDLE 8	Modulating 8 bars connecting 2 related sections	<input type="checkbox"/>

STROPHIC	Music / song with a recurring verse and Chorus	<input type="checkbox"/>
CODA	The concluding section at the end of a movement or section to give a final effect.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CADENZA	A show-off passage in a Concerto where the soloist performs a solo passage showing how well they play the instrument.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Bass lines can be constructed in different ways

WALKING BASS	A moving bass line with notes of the same value. They usually move in step	<input type="checkbox"/>
GROUND BASS	A theme repeated in the bass many times while the upper parts are varied	<input type="checkbox"/>
ALBERTI BASS	Broken chords played in the left hand while the right hand plays the melody. Usually found only on piano	<input type="checkbox"/>



TIMBRE/DYNAMICS

Words in this section describe instruments, ensembles and how they are used

Voices are as follows:-

SOPRANO	The highest range of female voice	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEZZO-SOPRANO	Female voice range lying between a soprano and alto	<input type="checkbox"/>
ALTO	The lowest female voice	<input type="checkbox"/>
TENOR	A high adult male voice	<input type="checkbox"/>
BARITONE	Male voice range lying between a tenor and a bass	<input type="checkbox"/>
BASS	The lowest male voice	<input type="checkbox"/>

Concepts describing vocals are:-

CHOIR	A group of singers, often consisting of an S.A.T.B. formation (Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass)	<input type="checkbox"/>
A CAPPELLA	Unaccompanied singing	<input type="checkbox"/>
BACKING VOCALS	Singers who support the main singer usually by singing in harmony in the background	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sections of the Orchestra:-

ORCHESTRA	A large group consisting of 4 families - strings, woodwind, brass and percussion.	<input type="checkbox"/>
------------------	---	--------------------------

STRINGS

Consisting: Violin, Viola, Cello,
Double Bass and Harp

WOODWIND

Consisting: Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet,
Saxophone and Bassoon

BRASS

Consisting: Trumpet, Trombone, Horn
and Tuba

PERCUSSION

Consisting: Tuned - Glockenspiel,
Xylophone, Marimba, Metalophone etc

Consisting: Untuned - Drumkit, Timpani,
Triangle, Cymbals, Tambourine etc

Each section has concepts associated with them:-

STRINGS:-**INSTRUMENTS**

Violin, viola, 'cello, double bass and harp.

BOWING

When strings are played with a bow

ARCO

Another word for Bowing

PLUCKING

Using fingers to pick the strings

PIZZICATO

Sound made by plucking the strings
with fingers

STRUMMING

Sound produced by drawing fingers or
a plectrum across the strings

WOODWIND:-**INSTRUMENTS**

Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone
and bassoon.

BLOWING

Sound produced by blowing into or across
the mouth piece

FLUTTER TONGUING A method of tonguing in which the player rolls the letter 'r'. It is particularly effective on flute but also used on brass

BRASS:-

INSTRUMENTS Trumpet, Trombone, (French) Horn, Tuba

BLOWING Sound produced by blowing into or across the mouth piece

MUTED Using a device which reduces the volume or alters the sound of an instrument

CON SORDINO Musical term for muted

PERCUSSION:-

INSTRUMENTS **(UNTUNED)** Snare drum, bass drum, cymbals, triangle, tambourine, guiro, castanets, hi-hat, bongo drums. **(TUNED)** Timpani, Xylophone, Glockenspiel.

STRIKING Sound is produced by hitting an instrument

Scottish Instruments:-

ACCORDION Instrument with a keyboard in which the sounds are produced by squeezing bellows with the arms

FIDDLE Another name for the violin

PIPES Short for Bagpipes

CLARSACH Smaller harp used in Scottish or Irish music, Usually with 32 strings and played seated.

BODHRAN Circular drum, played with a double ended Beater, held upright and the hand holding the drum is often used to mute the skin.

Instrumental effects:-

ROLLS	A very fast repetition of a note on a percussion instrument like snare drum or timpani.	<input type="checkbox"/>
DISTORTION	An electronic effect used in rock music to colour the sound of the electric guitar	<input type="checkbox"/>
REVERB	An electronic effect which can give the impression of different hall acoustics	<input type="checkbox"/>
DELAY	An electronic effect which repeats a note or a phrase	<input type="checkbox"/>

General instrumental concepts:-

STACCATO	Short, crisp, detached notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEGATO	Notes played smoothly	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRESCENDO	Getting louder	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIMINUENDO	Getting quieter	<input type="checkbox"/>

Individual instruments:-

ELECTRIC GUITAR	Guitar which requires an amplifier to produce sound	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACOUSTIC GUITAR	A guitar which does not require an amplifier to produce the sound	<input type="checkbox"/>
BASS GUITAR	A guitar which sounds one octave lower than a regular guitar and has 4 strings.	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRUMKIT	Percussion instrument were tuned skins are hit with sticks	<input type="checkbox"/>
PIANO	Keyboard instrument where the sound is produced by hammers hitting strings	<input type="checkbox"/>

ORGAN	A keyboard instrument usually found in churches - often more than 1 keyboard.	<input type="checkbox"/>
HARPSICHORD	A keyboard instrument usually found in the Baroque era. It has a distinct metallic sound, the strings are plucked inside rather than hitting like a piano.	<input type="checkbox"/>
RECORDER	Early woodwind instrument sound produced by blowing - four types, descant, treble, tenor and bass	<input type="checkbox"/>
PAN PIPES	Pipes which are graded in size and bound together with the sound produced by blowing across the top of the pipes	<input type="checkbox"/>
SITAR	A string instrument from India. In addition to melody strings it has a drone and strings which vibrate with each other	<input type="checkbox"/>
TABLA	Two Indian drums tuned to different pitches and often used to accompany a sitar	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Bands and ensembles:-</i>		
BRASS BAND	A band containing brass instruments and percussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
STEEL BAND	A West Indian band containing instruments made out of oil drums. Each drum is hammered into panels to make different pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOTTISH DANCE BAND	A band containing fiddle, accordion, piano and drums. Also known as a Ceilidh Band.	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIND BAND	A band containing woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Usually intended for performance in a Concert Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOLK GROUP	A group of instrumentalists and singers performing songs from a particular country	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dynamics describe the VOLUME of the music.

<i>pp</i>	Pianissimo - very quiet / soft
<i>p</i>	Piano - quiet / soft
<i>mp</i>	Mezzo-piano - half quiet
<i>mf</i>	Mezzo-forte - half loud
<i>f</i>	Forte - loud
<i>ff</i>	Fortissimo - very loud
<i>sfz</i>	Sforzando - suddenly loud
<i>cresc</i>	Crescendo meaning getting louder
<i>dim</i>	Diminuendo - getting quieter / softer

STYLES

Words in this section describe the original form /style of the music in relation to the history of music

Musical periods:-

BAROQUE

Music written between 1600-1750. Popular composers were Bach and Handel

CLASSICAL

Music written between 1750-1810. Popular composers were Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven

ROMANTIC

Music written between 1810-1900. Popular composers were Chopin, Schubert and Tchaikovsky

Vocal styles/forms:-

OPERA

A secular drama set to music featuring vocals with orchestral accompaniment

ARIA

A song found in an Opera and Oratorio usually with orchestral accompaniment

CHORUS

A group of singers with several voices to each part.
Used in Opera, Oratorio and Cantata

MUSICAL

Popular musical play featuring vocals and orchestra

Instrumental styles/forms:-

CONCERTO

A work for solo instrument and orchestra

SYMPHONY

A large work for orchestra in four movements

Scottish styles/forms:-

BOTHY BALLAD	Folk song with many verses telling a story of rural or farming / working life	<input type="checkbox"/>
GAELIC PSALMS	Unaccompanied songs sung in gaelic. One member of the congregation starts and the rest follow	<input type="checkbox"/>
MOUTH MUSIC	Gaelic nonsense words sung in imitation of the sound of bagpipes as an accompaniment to dancing	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOTS BALLAD	A slow Scottish song telling a story	<input type="checkbox"/>
WAULKING SONG	Gaelic work song sung by women. One woman leads and the others follow. The sound of the tweed being 'waulked' or hit against the work surface is heard in the background	<input type="checkbox"/>
PIBROCH	Classical music for the solo bagpipe usually in variation form	<input type="checkbox"/>

Jazz styles/forms:-

BLUES	Music written in 4/4 time and mostly patterned in a 12-bar structure and on a scale where some notes are flattened - the blues scale	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAGTIME	A style of dance music popular at the end of the 19 th Century. Often played on the piano and featuring a strongly syncopated melody in the right hand against a steady vamp in the left hand	<input type="checkbox"/>
SWING	A jazz style started in the 1930's usually performed by Big Bands	<input type="checkbox"/>

20th Century styles/forms:-

MINIMALIST A 20th Century development where simple rhythmic and melodic figures are repeated very slight changes each time

General styles/forms:-

AFRICAN MUSIC Music from African countries. May include drumming, music for voices, and traditional instruments, as well as popular music.

INDIAN Music from India using instruments such as the sitar and tabla

POP Popular music performed by a group of musicians. Usually music that has been in the charts

ROCK Popular music with a steady driving beat

JAZZ A style of music which reached full popularity 1950's, where improvisation is a key element. Jazz styles include swing.

SCOTTISH MUSIC Music from Scotland including traditional songs, instrumental music and dances.

AFRICAN MUSIC Music from African countries. May include drumming, music for voices, and traditional instruments, as well as popular music.

LATIN AMERICAN Music from Latin America, primarily dance styles such as Samba, Salsa, Merengue, Paso Doble, Cha-Cha etc

ROCK N' ROLL Popular music, originating in the 1950's, which is often based on a sped up blues pattern, and features piano, drums, voice, and bass. Famous rock n' roll performers include Elvis, Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis.

REGGAE	Music from Jamaica, originated in the 1960 for dance from Ska and rhythm and blues music. Features include a strong off-beat usually played on guitar, and syncopated rhythms.	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAPPING	Chanted or rhyming lyrics performed to a musical backing. Famous performers include Eminem, 50 Cent and Snoop Dogg.	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOSPEL	Christian music with strong vocalists. Often features a gospel choir, rock band instruments and influences by African-American music. Can also feature syncopated rhythms and call & response. Famous gospel songs include Swing Low Sweet Chariot and Oh Happy Day.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CELTIC ROCK	Music which blends (usually) Scottish or Irish music with rock music styles and instruments. Famous bands include Capercaillie and Runrig.	<input type="checkbox"/>