

The Elements of Music and their definition

These are essential to know for every topic at KS3! These elements of music are involved in every topic over the 3 years at KS3.

1. Dynamics - The volume of the music RAG
2. Duration- The length of a sound RAG
3. Harmony- The relationship of notes RAG
4. Melody - The main tune RAG
5. Metre - How many beats in a bar RAG
6. Pitch - How high or low the sound is RAG
7. Rhythm - The pattern of the notes RAG
8. Structure - The sections of the music RAG
9. Tempo - The speed of the music RAG
10. Timbre - The sound of an instrument RAG
11. Tonality - The mood of the music RAG

12. A leitmotif is a short musical idea used to represent a character.

13. A variation is a slight change from the original. For example the original theme may be loud (forte) and the variation may be quiet (piano).

Knowledge Organiser: Film Music

14. Sharp - A sharp in music is a note that has been raised by 1 note (a semitone). For example C would become C# (the black key between C and D).

15. Minor - Music in a minor key has a more solemn and mournful sound to it. It can be used to convey sad/scary emotions and is very powerful. To work out a minor chord you need to start on a note, count up 3 semitones, then from that note count up 4 semitones. For example Cm = C - up 3 - Eb - up 4 - G. C Eb G

16. Major - Music in a major key has a more happy and uplifting sound to it. It can be used to convey joyous and calm emotions. To work out a major chord you need to start on a note, count up 4 semitones, then from that note count up 3 semitones. For example C = C - up 4 - E - up 3 - G. C E G

17. Chord - A chord is where multiple notes are played at the same time. Commonly a 3 note chord is played.

You can play the notes separately but this is called a broken chord.

18. Arrangement - A musical arrangement is where you play/record an existing piece/pieces of music and arrange them to make a coherent performance. This is also linked to the term structure.

19. Diegetic sound - Diegetic sound is any sound that originates from the world of a film. A very simple way to think about diegetic sound is to think of it as that could make sound in the world of a film. If the characters can hear it, it's diegetic. The sound doesn't have to be featured on-screen

20. Hit Point - A hit point is a spot when a beat or hit in the music is intended to sync with a specific frame or act in the video to emphasize that precise moment