

# MUSIC GLOSSARY

<b>Accompaniment</b>	The music that supports the main melody
<b>Beat</b>	The regular basic unit of length in musical time
<b>Chord</b>	Two or more notes played at the same time
<b>Consonance</b>	A combination of two or more tones that sound good together
<b>Dissonance</b>	A combination of two or more tones that sound bad together
<b>Dynamics</b>	Variation and contrast in loudness or softness of the music described as <b>PIANO</b> soft <b>FORTE</b> loud
<b>Duration</b>	The length of notes – held for a long or short amount of time
<b>Genre</b>	A type of musical work such as choral, jazz, mariachi
<b>Harmony</b>	When two or more pitches are sounded at the same time
<b>Improvise</b>	To spontaneously compose music
<b>Legato</b>	Smooth melodic line
<b>Melody</b>	A combination of pitches (perceived as one entity) arranged in orders that are usually pleasing to hear. Pitches move up, down, or repeat to make a melody
<b>Pitch</b>	The highness or lowness of sound
<b>Pulse</b>	The regular beat of a piece of music
<b>Range</b>	The interval between the lowest and highest notes of a piece of music
<b>Rhythm</b>	Combinations of long and short, or even or uneven sounds that establish a musical continuum and convey a sense of movement
<b>Staccato</b>	Short, detached notes
<b>Syncope</b>	Accenting against the beat – where the emphasis does not fall on the expected beat of 1, 2, 3, or 4, but between them, characteristic of jazz
<b>Tempo</b>	The speed of the music described as: <b>LARGO</b> very very slow (literally = large) <b>ADAGIO</b> very slow <b>ANDANTE</b> slow, but moving, like walking purposefully <b>MODERATO</b> moderate, not too slow or too fast <b>ALLEGRO</b> literally = cheerful, usually taken as relatively fast <b>PRESTO</b> very fast
<b>Texture</b>	The character of the different layers of horizontal and vertical sounds described as: <b>MONOPHONIC</b> One sound at a time <b>HETEROPHONIC</b> Different sounds played together <b>HOMOPHONIC</b> In chords. Notes at same time <b>POLYPHONIC</b> Many sounds in clear layers or strands
<b>Timbre</b>	The colour or quality of a musical tone
<b>Tone</b>	The relative brightness or darkness of a sound