

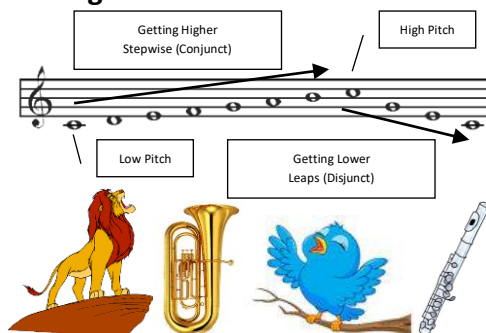
Building Bricks

Exploring the Elements of Music



A. Pitch

The **highness or lowness** of a sound.



B. Tempo

The **speed** of a sound or piece of music.

FAST: *Allegro, Vivace, Presto*
SLOW: *Andante, Adagio, Lento*
GETTING FASTER –
Accelerando (accel.)
GETTING SLOWER –
Ritardando (rit.) or Rallentando (rall.)



C. Dynamics

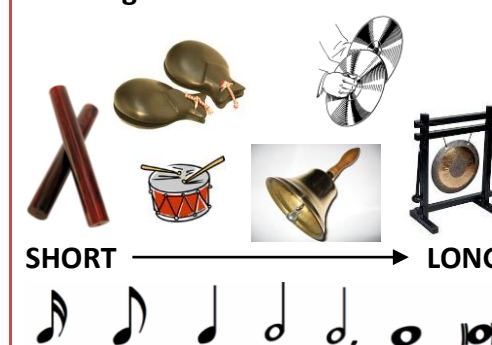
The **volume** of a sound or piece of music.

VERY LOUD: *Fortissimo (ff)*
LOUD: *Forte (f)*
QUITE LOUD: *Mezzo Forte (mf)*
QUITE SOFT: *Mezzo Piano (mp)*
SOFT: *Piano (p)*
VERY SOFT: *Pianissimo (pp)*
GETTING LOUDER: *Crescendo (cresc.)*
GETTING SOFTER: *Diminuendo (dim.)*



D. Duration

The **length** of a sound.



E. Texture

How much sound we hear.

THIN TEXTURE: (*sparse/solo*) – small amount of instruments or melodies.



THICK TEXTURE: (*dense/layered*) – lots of instruments or melodies.

F. Timbre or Sonority

Describes the **unique sound or tone quality** of different instruments voices or sounds.



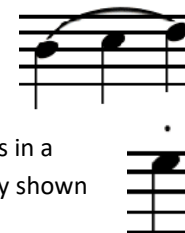
Velvety, Screechy, Throaty, Rattling, Mellow, Chirpy, Brassy, Sharp, Heavy, Buzzing, Crisp, Metallic, Wooden etc.

G. Articulation

How individual notes or sounds are **played/techniques**.

LEGATO – playing notes in a long, smooth way shown by a **SLUR**.

STACCATO – playing notes in a short, detached, spiky way shown by a **DOT**.



H. Silence

The opposite or absence of sound, **no sound**. In music these are **RESTS**.



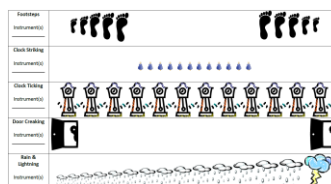
I. Notation

How music is **written** down.

STAFF NOTATION – music written on a **STAVE** (5 lines and spaces)



GRAPHIC NOTATION/SCORE – music written down using shapes and symbols to represent sounds.



J. How Music Works

Music can create an **atmosphere** or **ambience** e.g., *supermarkets and restaurants*.

Music can create an **image** e.g., *in response to art, a story, a poem, a character, a situation* – this is called **PROGRAMME MUSIC**.

Music can be **calming** e.g., *end of an evening in clubs and bars*.

Music can be used for **spiritual reasons** e.g., *worship, meditation, reflection, hymns and chants, yoga, and spiritual reflection*.

Music can be used for **commercial** purposes e.g., *advertising, TV themes*.