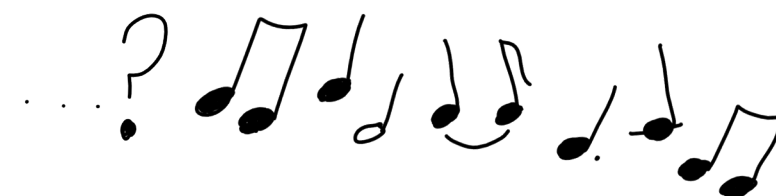
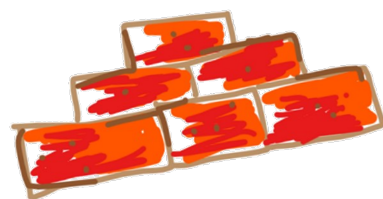


Texture

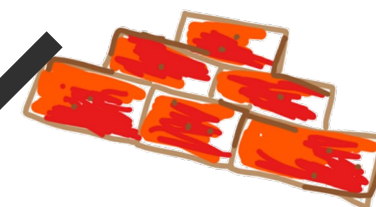
What do you mean by...



In music, **Texture** is the word we use to describe how a piece of music is built up, and how many layers it has. Music can be built up a bit like bricks to build a house, with lots of layers

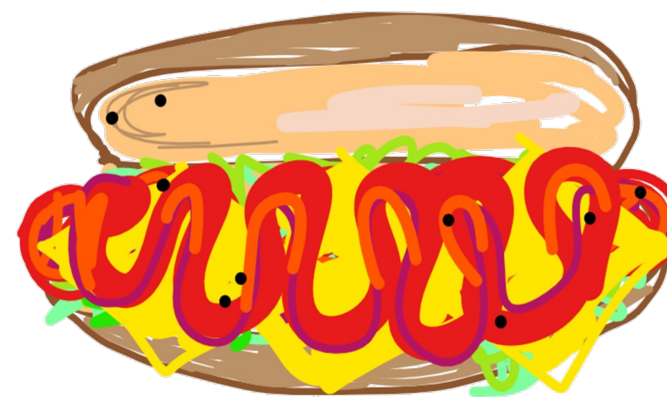


one on top of the other.



We use words like **'thick'**, **'thin'**, **'wide'**, **'dense'** and **'sparse'** to describe Texture.

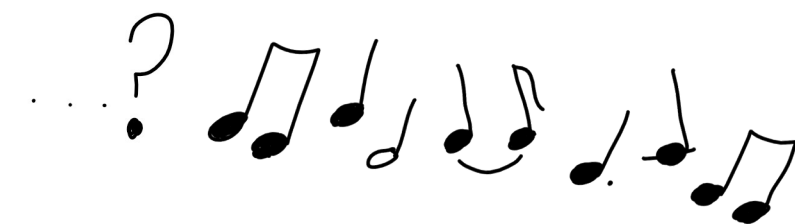
A piece of music with lots of different musicians all playing different things would be a **'thick'** texture, whereas someone playing on their own would be a **'thin'** texture. A little bit like the difference between a single slice of bread, and a multi-layer sandwich!



How would you describe the texture of a piece with lots of parts, where they are all playing the same thing?

Harmony

What do you mean by...



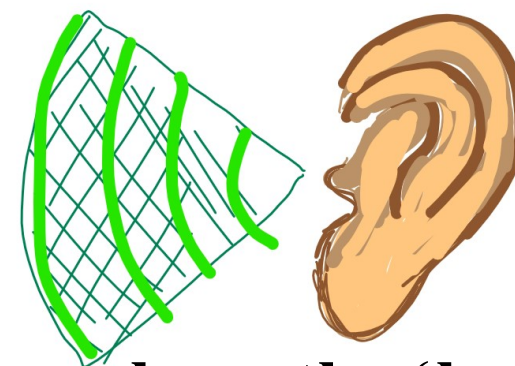
In music, **Harmony** is the word we use to describe the way the music sounds as it progresses, and sometimes which collections of notes, or '**chords**', are used and which musical rules the composer has followed.



Every musical note has a part to play in the **Harmony**.

Most of the time, harmony is used to describe which notes are played together and sound nice, and which notes do *not* sound nice when you play them at the same time.

It also refers to which note appears the most times, as our ears will latch onto that note as the '**home**' of the piece.

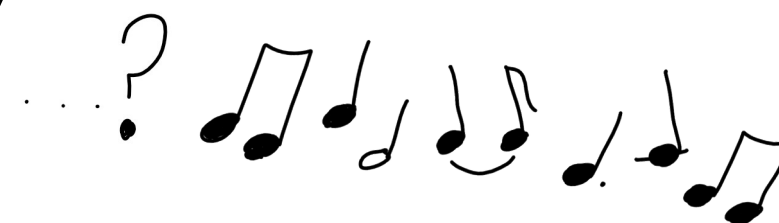


Think about your favourite song, do you think you can hear the 'home' note?



Tonality

What do you mean by...



In music, **Tonality** is the word we use to describe the way that musical notes relate to each other. As a general description, **Tonality** refers to a set of rules that all music of a certain area, country, culture, or **'practice'** follows. Western tonality uses slightly different sound frequencies and follows different rules about writing melodies to **Arabic music**, for example.

You could compare it to how the Chinese language sounds different and uses syllabic writing instead of an alphabet, like we have in English.

HELLO 你好

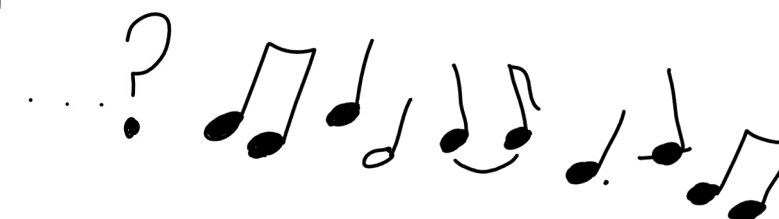
When Tonality is used to describe a piece, the definition is different—it refers to the **'home'** tones, and how the other notes relate or fit into a **hierarchy**. Some notes sound like they **'lead'** to the **'home'** note, some compliment the home chord really well, and others clash.

When notes clash, it is called **Dissonance**, and when they sound nice, it is called **Consonance**.

Have you ever heard music from another part of the world?

Timbre

What do you mean by...



In music, **Timbre** is the word we use to describe the type of sound an instrument or voice makes. There are lots of words we can use to describe a Timbre:

soft, harsh, piercing, deep, booming, fluttery, woody, metallic, rich etc!

Another way we can describe timbre is a 'tone colour'.



If you closed your eyes, you could still tell the difference between the voices of your friends and teachers. That's because you can recognise the **Timbre** of each voice.

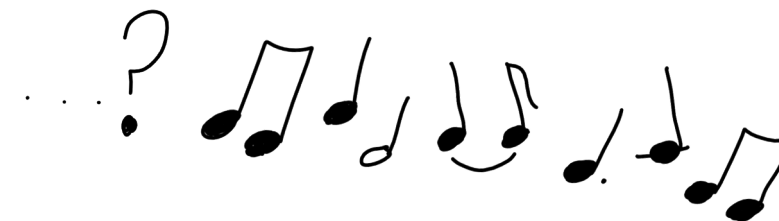
Sometimes in an orchestra, the instruments with the harshest and most piercing timbres will play the solos, because their sounds will carry all the way to the back of a concert hall.



Think of the sound a songbird makes, compared to a roaring lion, which do you think has the softest timbre? And which has the richest timbre?

Major and Minor

What do you mean by...



In music, **Major and Minor** are the words we use to describe the general **mood** of a piece of music. When you build a **three note chord** on a note, a **raised** middle note makes a major chord, and a **lowered** middle note makes a minor chord.



You may have heard these terms if you play an instrument, because you will learn major and minor **scales**, which is how we describe a step-by-step exercise travelling up and down in pitch.



Major sounds upbeat and happy



Minor sounds sad and melancholy

Out of the songs you've heard in the last week, how many are major, and how many minor?



Rhythm

What do you mean by...? 

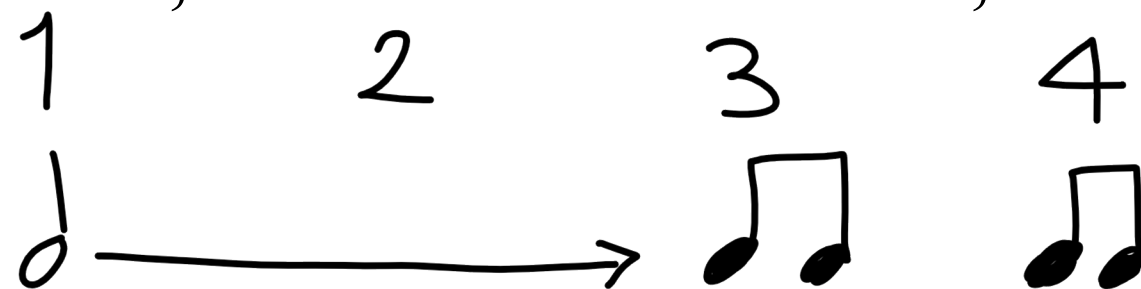
In music, **Rhythm** is the word we use to describe the lengths of time between each note, and how **fast** and **slow** notes interact to make a musical phrase.

When you feel your heart beat, you might notice it has its own **rhythm**. Hopefully, it is a repeating phrase of two beats: **Long, Short-Long, Short-Long, Short-Long**



When we are playing or singing a piece of music, a **Rhythm** can also refer to a particular repeating phrase that fits into the **bar**, or musical section, of that piece.

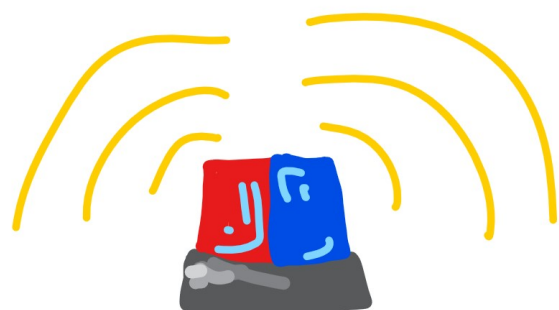
For example, if a bar has 4 equal length beats, you could have a rhythm made up of a two beat note, and four half-beat notes, like this:



What kind of rhythms do you most like to tap along or dance to?

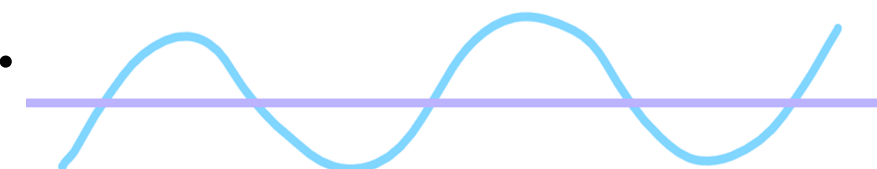
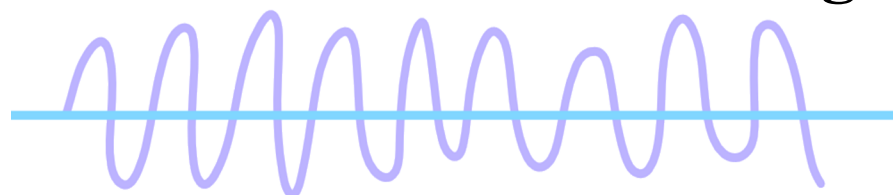
What do you mean by... **Pitch** ...?

In music, **Pitch** is the word we use to describe how **high** or **low** or sound is.
 An example of a high-pitched sound is a **police car siren**, and an example of a low pitched sound is **rumbling thunder**.



Sound travels in **waves**, and some clever people a long time ago worked out a system of measuring how quickly the waves were moving back and forward—we measure this in **‘Hz’**.

If the wave is vibrating very quickly, the sound will be a **higher** pitch, and very slow vibrating waves are **lower** pitched.



In music, we have assigned letters of the alphabet to certain **‘Hz’** frequencies, **A through to G**.

These are the musical notes we use. Orchestras tune their note “A” to 440Hz.

Do you think a big instrument will be higher or lower in pitch compared to a small instrument?

Tempo

What do you mean by...



In music, **Tempo** is the word we use to describe the speed of the **beat** in any song or piece of music.



A piece of music might have lots of short notes in it, but if the underlying beats have lots of time in between them, that piece still has a **slow tempo**.

Equally, a piece with beats that are very close together could have long notes that hold for lots of beats, but this is still a **fast tempo** piece.

We usually measure Tempo in '**Beats Per Minute**' (BPM), but we can also just describe the Tempo in terms such as:

Fast, Lively, Heavy, Walking Speed, Slow, Solemn, etc!

Allegro
Vivace
Pesante

We can also use the official musical names for these descriptions which are in Italian!

Andante
Largo
Grave

If 60BPM is one beat per second—how many beats per second is 120BPM?

Note Values



What do you mean by...



In music, **Note Values** is the term we use to describe the collection of symbols we use to write music down on paper. They can be a bit complicated mathematically!



In basic terms, we use a collection of dots and sticks, and they all have special names.

Semiquaver	$\frac{1}{4}$ of a beat	
Quaver	$\frac{1}{2}$ a beat	
Crotchet	1 Beat	
Minim	2 Beats	
Semibreve	4 Beats	

Can you work out how many Semiquavers fit into one crotchet?

The Stave

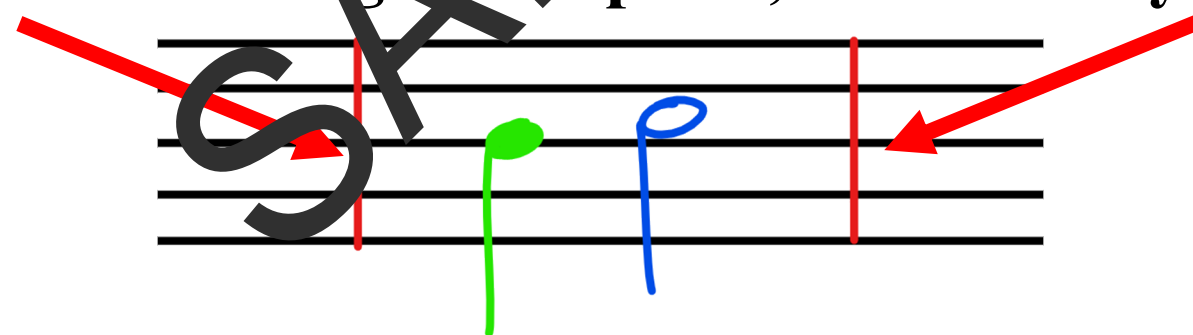
What do you mean by...



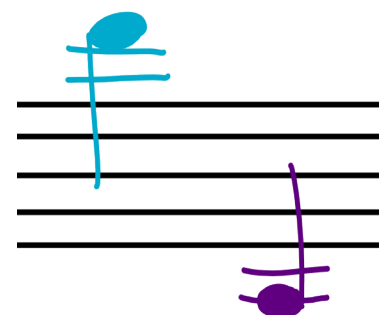
In music, **The Stave** is the term we use for a collection of five horizontal lines that we use like a ladder to put our note symbols on. The higher up the lines, the higher the note.



The long horizontal Stave is divided up by vertical **Bar lines**, and each bar has the same number of beats throughout a piece, unless it says otherwise.



If a note is too high or low for the Stave, it gets its own special lines, called **Ledger Lines**.

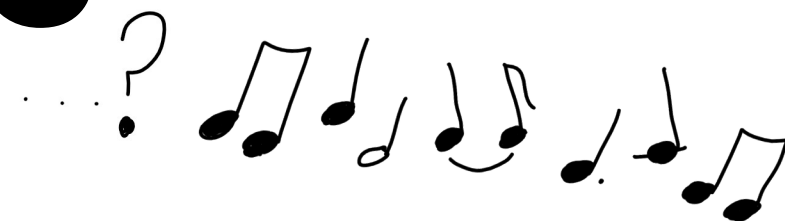


What do you think the highest note you can sing would look like?



Accidentals

What do you mean by...

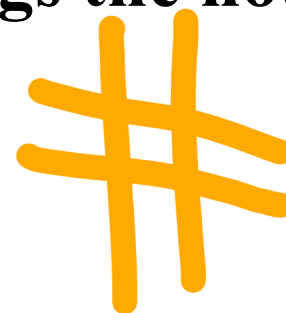


In music, **Accidentals** is the word we use to describe a collection of small symbols that we use to indicate that we want a note to be higher, lower, or return to normal.

These are called a **Sharp**, a **Flat**, and a **Natural**.

In between most of the letter named notes, there is a half step note. A sharp **raises** the note a half step, a flat **lowers** it, and a natural brings the note back to **normal**.

This is a **sharp**



This is a **flat**



This is a **natural**



The half step note, or semitone, in between F and G, can be **either** F Sharp OR G flat!

Melody

What do you mean by...? 

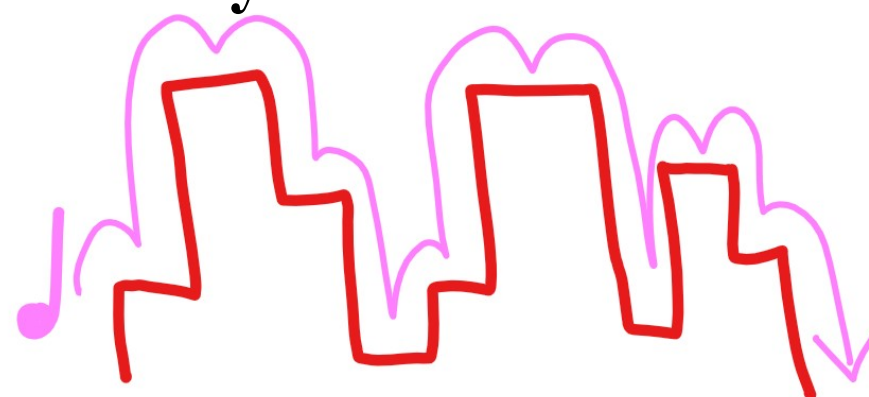
In music, **Melody** is the word we use to describe a short combination of notes that, when played together, form a **well-glued musical phrase**.

There are some guidelines for composing a melody, but really a melody can be whatever you like! Only **YOU** have to like it!

If your melody has lots of notes that sit next to each other, we call that a **Conjunct** Melody.



If the notes jump around everywhere it is called a **Disjunct** Melody.



Can you compose a melody using Conjunct and Disjunct sets of notes?



Key Signatures

What do you mean by...



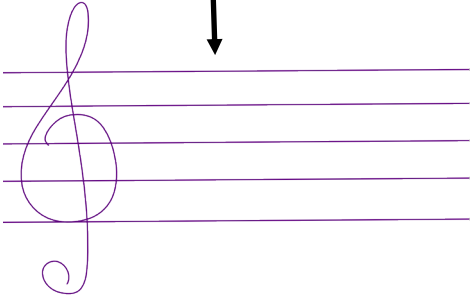
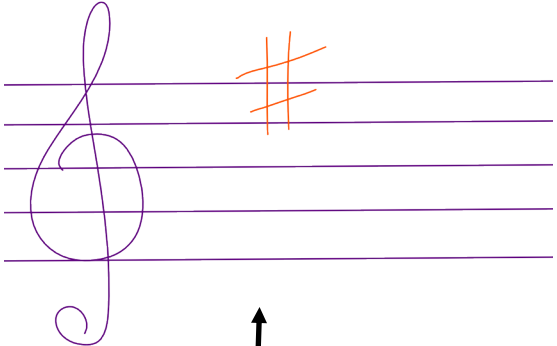
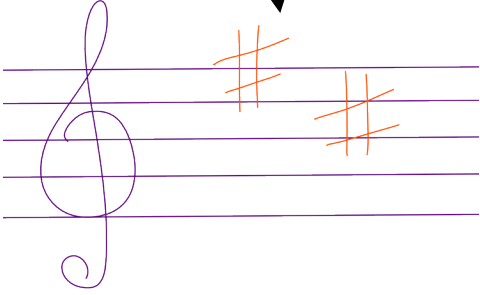
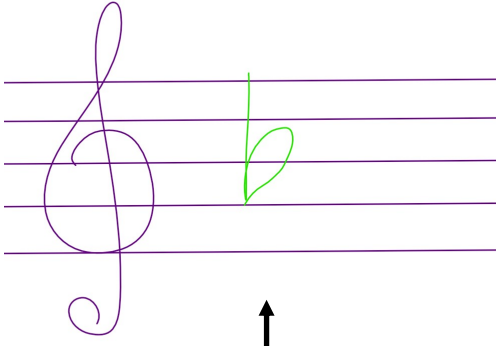
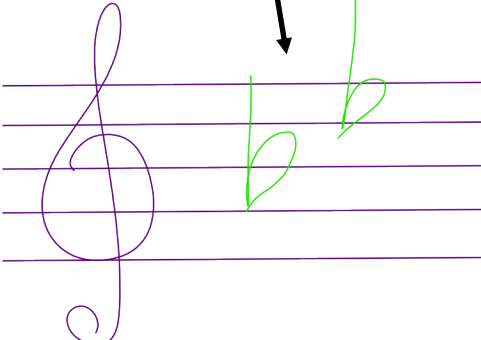
In music, a **Key Signature** is a collection of **Sharps** or **Flats** that sit at the start of the **Stave** on every line of a piece of music.

This is used instead of writing accidentals next to notes all the time. For example, if there is an F# and a C# in the **Key Signature**, every F and C in the whole piece becomes a **Sharp** unless a **Natural** sign is used.

It is called a **Key Signature** because each note has a certain set of chords and pitches that work as its family, and are always used, this is called the **Key**.

For example there is always an F# in the key of G.

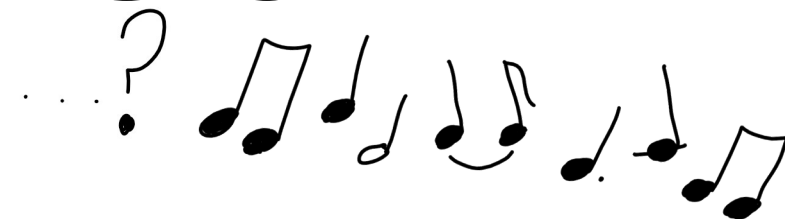
Here are the most commonly used **Key Signatures**.

C Major ↓ 	 ↑ G Major	D Major ↓ 	 ↑ F Major	B Flat Major ↓ 
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Time Signatures

What do you mean by...



In music, a **Time Signature** is what we call an indicator at the beginning of a piece that tells the musician how many beats are in a bar, and what type of beat it is.

It is presented as two numbers, one on top of the other like this:

4

4

The top number is **HOW MANY** beats, and the bottom number is **WHAT TYPE** of beat.

When the top number divides by 2, it is called **Straight** Time, and if it divides by 3, it is called **Compound** Time.

Time Signature:	Beats in a Bar: (top number)	Type of Beat: (bottom number)
$\frac{2}{2}$	2	Minims
$\frac{3}{4}$	3	Crotchets
$\frac{6}{8}$	6 or (2x3)	Quavers
$\frac{12}{16}$	12 or (4x3)	Semiquavers



Dynamics

What do you mean by...



In music, **Dynamics** is the word we use to describe how loud or soft a note is.

We also have other instructions, usually in **Italian** that tell us how to use the dynamics, where to change them, and the different levels of volume.

Here are some examples:

pp

Pianissimo

Very Quiet

p

Piano

Quiet

mp

Mezzo-Piano

Quite Quiet

mf

Mezzo-Forte

Quite Loud

f

Forte

Loud

ff

Fortissimo

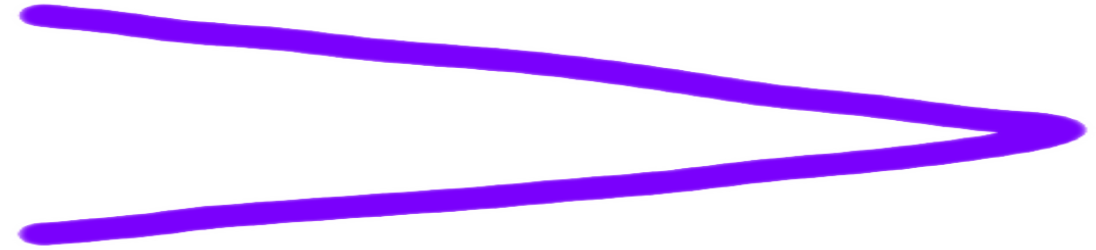
Very Loud

We also use **Crescendo** and **Diminuendo**:

Getting gradually louder



Getting gradually quieter



Can you think of an instrument that usually plays very loud, or '*Fortissimo*'?