

Music Concepts

Concepts							
Duration	Pitch	Tempo	Dynamics	Structure	Texture	Timbre	Rhythm
Duration is an amount of time or how long or short a note, phrase, section or composition lasts.	Pitch is the sound of a single note in relation to other notes. Words which can describe the pitch include: high, low, treble, bass, sharp, flat	Tempo is the speed of a piece of music. The tempo can change during a piece. The tempo describes the pulse or beat of the music. Sometimes we use Italian words to describe the tempo such as <i>lento</i> , which means slow, or <i>allegro</i> which means lively.	Dynamics are used to describe the volume of one or more notes in a piece of music. The dynamic can change gradually or suddenly. Symbols known as dynamic markings, based on Italian descriptions, are often used such as <i>f</i> for forte which means 'strong' or 'loud'.	Structure is the overall framework of a piece of music. The structure of a song will usually have an introduction, some verses and a chorus.	The texture of a piece of music describes how the different sounds are being woven together. A thick texture uses several ideas at once. A thinner texture will have fewer parts. A whole class singing the same harmony is thin. A few children singing the same song in a four-part round, starting at different times will create a thicker texture.	Timbre is the unique sound quality which helps us to distinguish between different instruments and voices. The different ways an instrument is played can change its timbre	Rhythm is the organisation of long and short sounds around a beat. Some rhythms coincide with the beat; others use syncopation in which most of the sounds fit between the main beats.