

# The Elements of Music

## **MELODY: How pitches are organised to form the melody**

Scalic, arpeggiated, periodic phrasing, sequence, ornamentation, ostinati, imitation, repetition

## **HARMONY: How pitches are organised to form the harmony (Chords and progression)**

Major, minor, 7ths, 9ths, diatonic, dissonant, chromatic, Roman numerals, cadences, drone, pedal

## **TONALITY: The type of key**

Major, minor, modal, atonal, pentatonic, chromatic, diatonic, modulations to other keys and their relationships, bitonal.

## **STRUCTURE: The organisation of musical material**

Binary (AB), Ternary (ABA), Rondo ABACA, Sonata Form, Verse/Chorus structure, Through Composed, Strophic, Head arrangement, Solo, Instrumental, Theme & Variations

## **SONORITY: The instruments used, their sound quality and how they are played (techniques and effects)**

Instrumental families (Strings, Woodwind, Percussion, Brass), individual instruments and combinations of, timbre and their pitch range.

Playing techniques, effects and articulation, for example legato and staccato, pizzicato, arco, drum roll, strumming, vibrato etc.

## **TEXTURE: The number of 'voices' or parts playing and how they fit together and contrast.**

One part, two part, monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, counterpoint, heterophonic, unison, octaves, imitation

## **TEMPO: Speed**

Allegro, andante, moderato, rit., rall., accel. etc.

## **RHYTHM: patterns of note lengths**

Syncopation, hemiola, triplet rhythms, semiquaver rhythms, dotted rhythms, swung rhythms.

## **METRE: time signature**

Pulse, simple time, compound time.

## **DYNAMICS: The volume of music and its contrasts**

basic dynamic devices, for example crescendo and diminuendo, piano, forte, fortissimo, pianissimo, mezzo forte, mezzo piano, sforzando.