

The Elements of Music

Pulse

The beat of the music. Every piece of music has a heartbeat. It doesn't need to be played by drums - you can 'feel' the beat.

Rhythm

Notes have different lengths, some long, some short. When we combine long and short sounds, it creates a pattern, which is a rhythm.

Pitch

Pitch is a variation of high and low sounds. Pitch increases and decreases by steps of a scale. Scales are Major and Minor.

Tempo

Tempo means the speed of the music. Music can change tempo within a piece. We describe tempo using Italian words.

Dynamics

Dynamics means the volume of the music. Music can change dynamics within a piece. We describe dynamics using Italian words.

Structure

Music is divided into sections. The order of these sections creates a structure. Song structure includes Chorus, Verse, Instrumental etc.

Texture

A single melody creates a thin sound. Adding more parts/layers creates a bigger sound. These layers can interact with each other.



Timbre

Each instrument has a unique sound and sounds different to others. This individual sound quality is called Timbre.

Tempo in Italian

<i>Largo</i>	<i>Adagio</i>	<i>Andante</i>	<i>Allegro</i>	<i>Presto</i>
Very Slow	Slow	Walking pace	Fast	Very Fast

Dynamics in Italian

<i>pp</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>mp</i>	<i>mf</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>ff</i>
<i>Pianissimo</i>	<i>Piano</i>	<i>Mezzo Piano</i>	<i>Mezzo Forte</i>	<i>Forte</i>	<i>Fortissimo</i>
Very Quiet	Quiet	Medium Quiet	Medium Loud	Loud	Very Loud
					
Crescendo Gradually getting louder			Diminuendo Gradually getting quieter		

Rhythm Symbols and Values

				
<i>Semibreve</i>	<i>Minim</i>	<i>Crotchet</i>	<i>Quaver</i>	<i>Semiquaver</i>
4 beats	2 beats	1 beat	1/2 beat	1/4 beat

Rhythms into Syllables

				
Tea	Coffee	Lemonade	Coca-Cola	Pineapple