

Music Glossary

Please find below a bank of general musical terms with their associated definitions, use this to ensure you have accurate understanding of the terms that are commonly used when teaching the subject of music – these terms have been selected as they will be commonly used in all year groups across the school.

| Key Term | Definition |
|-------------|---|
| Beat | a unit of rhythm |
| Bass Cleff | The bass clef is also called an F-clef, because it wraps around the highest F note on the bass staff. The bass clef governs bass notes, which fall around middle C and below. |
| Chant | singing in unison |
| Composer | A person who creates / writes a piece of music |
| Composition | the creation and structure of a piece of music |
| Crescendo | getting louder |
| Crotchet | A note that has a value of 1 beats |
| Decrescendo | getting quieter |
| Dynamics | how loud or quiet a piece of music is |
| Ensemble | all the instruments in an orchestra / group playing at once |

| Forte | loud |
|------------|---|
| Harmony: | when two or more notes are played in a pleasing way |
| Instrument | A musical instrument is an instrument created or adapted to make musical sounds. In principle, any object that produces sound can be considered a musical instrument—it is through purpose that the object becomes a musical instrument. |
| Major: | a happy sounding piece |
| Melody: | a group of notes of various pitches which are played one after another. Together they make a tune in the same way that a group of words make a sentence |
| Minor | a sad sounding piece of music |
| Minum | A note that has a value of 2 beats |
| Notation | a method of writing music |
| Octave | 8 full tones above the original note |
| Orchestra | A large group of instruments. An orchestra is made up of different musical instruments: Strings. Strings are instruments such as violin, guitar, harp and bass. Woodwinds. Woodwinds are instruments such as bassoons and oboes. Percussion. The most commonly known form of percussion instruments are drums. Keyboards. The most common forms of keyboards are pianos and organs. |

| Pace | See Tempo |
|--------------|--|
| Pitch | The position of a single sound in the complete range of sound. Sounds are higher or lower in pitch according to the frequency of |
| | vibration of the sound waves producing them. |
| Pulse | The constant beat in a piece of music (1,2,3,4) |
| Quaver | A note that has a value of half a beat. Two quavers = 1 beat |
| Rhythm | Structured groups of accented and unaccented beats |
| Scale | Successive notes ascending or descending (C,D,E,F,G,A,B) |
| Semibreve | A note that has a value of 4 beats |
| Shape | The direction of a melody; the abstract quality of the motion and figure of a composition, achieved through dynamics, pitch direction and tempo |
| Sound | When a musician plays a note of a certain pitch, the musical instrument vibrates or RESONATES and produces a complex pattern of sound waves |
| Тетро | Speed of a piece of music |
| Timbre | The tone or unique quality of a sound. If you play the same note on the piano and on the guitar, each note will have its own timbre. |
| Treble cleff | A treble clef is a symbol that you use when writing music in order to show that the notes on the staff are above middle C. Treble Clef Notes E F G A B C D E F Line Notes Space Notes F A C E |



Music Vocabulary

Please find below lists of artistic terms relevant to the topics being studied by Year Groups 1-6, the definitions for each of the word

Year 1

*Please note that the words displayed below are additional to those displayed in the glossary, relevant key terms from the glossary will be used throughout these topics.

| Autumn Term: Treasure Island | | Spring Term: Time Travellers | | Summer Term: A day in the life of | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Sounds are usually a mixture of lots of different kinds of sound waves. | | Composing | To put together a piece of music with a variety of sounds | | |
| Shape | The direction of a melody | Musicians | A person who plays a musical instrument. | No music taught this term | |
| Clapping | Clapping of hands to a rhythm | Sounds | When a musician plays a note of a certain pitch | | |

| Repetition | The same tune or rhythm is played more than once | Steady beat | Beat is the underlying pulse of a piece of music. It is often called "steady beat" because it remains the same, or constant, much like a clock. |
|------------|---|----------------|---|
| Percussion | Instruments that are untuned and unpitched. | | |
| Melody | A group of notes of various pitches which are played one after another. Together they make a tune in the same way that a group of words make a sentence | | |



| | Autumn Term: | Spring Term: | | | Summer Term: | |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|
| The Earth Our Home | | Buildings | | The Toy Maker | | |
| Compose | to create / write a piece of music | Chanting | singing in unison | Rhythm | Structured groups of accented and unaccented beats | |
| Instrument | A musical instrument is an instrument created or adapted to make musical sounds. In principle, any object that produces sound can be considered a musical instrument—it is through purpose that the object becomes a musical instrument. | Repeated phrases | A phrase of words that is repeated as part of the song | Pace | The speed of a piece of music | |
| Layers of sound | When a musician plays a note of a certain pitch, the musical instrument vibrates or RESONATES and produces a complex pattern of sound waves Layers is more than one sound being played at once. | Repetition | The same phrase / pattern of music that is used more than once. | Pulse | The constant beat in a piece of music | |
| Pace | The speed of a piece of music | | | Rhythmic notation | 1 The Beat. Music is based in time. Most music has a steady, recurring pulse called the beat. 2 Bars. To help keep our place in music, beats are grouped into bars, 3 Barlines. Barlines divide the musical bars. The space between two barlines is the measure or bar. 4 Rhythms. Rhythms in music are based on fractions. | |
| Pulse | The constant beat in a piece of music | | | Tone | Is a steady periodic sound. A musical tone is characterised by its | |

| | | | | duration, pitch, intensity (or loudness) and timbre (or quality). |
|----------|--|------|-----|---|
| Rhythm | Structured groups of accented and unaccented | Volu | ume | The loudness of a sound, as measured |
| | beats | | | in decibels. |
| Rhythmic | 1 The Beat. Music is based in time. Most music | | | |
| notation | has a steady, recurring pulse called the beat. | | | |
| | 2 Bars. To help keep our place in music, beats | | | |
| | are grouped into bars, | | | |
| | 3 Barlines. Barlines divide the musical bars. | | | |
| | The space between two barlines is the | | | |
| | measure or bar. | | | |
| | 4 Rhythms. Rhythms in music are based on | | | |
| | fractions. | | | |
| Sound | When a musician plays a note of a certain | | | |
| | pitch, the musical instrument vibrates or | | | |
| | RESONATES and produces a complex pattern | | | |
| | of sound waves | | | |
| Volume | The loudness of a sound, as measured in | | | |
| | decibels. | | | |



| Autumn Term: | Spring Term | 1: | Summer Term: A to B | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|---|--|
| Scavengers and Settlers | Different Pla | aces, Similar Lives | | | |
| No music taught this term | Dynamics | How loud or quiet a piece of music is | Dynamics | How loud or quiet a piece of music is | |
| | Pitch | The position of a single sound in the complete range of sound. Sounds are higher or lower in pitch according to the frequency of vibration of the sound waves producing them. | Pitch | The position of a single sound in the complete range of sound. Sounds are higher or lower in pitch according to the frequency of vibration of the sound waves producing them. | |
| | Rhythmic patterns | Steady, recurring pulse called the beat. 2 Bars. To help keep our place in music, beats are grouped into bars, 3 Barlines. Barlines divide the musical bars. The space between two barlines is the measure or bar. 4 Rhythms. Rhythms in music are based on fractions | Tempo | Speed of a piece of music | |
| | Tempo | Speed of a piece of music | Timbre | The tone or unique quality of a sound. If you play the same note on the piano and on the guitar, each note will have its own timbre. | |
| | Timbre | The tone or unique quality of a sound. If you play the same note | Tuned instruments | That a note can be played on an instrument | |

| on the piano and on the guitar, | Untuned | Instruments that are typically used |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| each note will have its own | instruments | to perform the rhythmic |
| timbre. | | foundations of a composition. |



| Autumn Term: | Spring Term: | | Summer Term: |
|---------------------------|--------------|---|---------------------------|
| Make a difference | Island Life | | Young Entrepreneurs |
| No music taught this term | | To evaluate two or more pieces of | No music taught this term |
| | Compare | music to look at what is the same and | |
| | | what makes it different. | |
| | Composition | A piece of music that has been written / | |
| | | composed | |
| | Dynamics | How loud or quiet a piece of music is | |
| | Ensemble | all the instruments in an orchestra / | |
| | | group playing at once | |
| | Evaluate | to assess and state likes and dislikes | |
| | | about a piece of music or personal | |
| | | composition | |
| | Tempo | Speed of a piece of music | |
| | Timbre | The tone or unique quality of a sound. If | |
| | | you play the same note on the piano | |
| | | and on the guitar, each note will have | |
| | | its own timbre. | |



| Autumn Term: | Spring Term: | | Summer Term: |
|------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Moving People | Earth is an Isla | ind | What Price Progress |
| No music taught in this term | Dynamics | how loud or quiet a piece of music is | No music taught in this term |
| | harmony | when two or more notes are played in a pleasing way | |
| | Instruments | | |
| | Live music | To play music to an audience | |
| | Melody | A group of notes of various | |
| | | pitches which are played one | |
| | | after another. Together they | |
| | | make a tune in the same way | |
| | | that a group of words make a | |
| | | sentence. | |
| | Mood and | Different genres of music can | |
| | effect | also have different effects on | |
| | | people's mood (can make them | |
| | | feel happy, sad etc) | |
| | Pitch | The position of a single sound in | |
| | | the complete range of sound. | |
| | | Sounds are higher or lower | |
| | | in pitch according to the | |
| | | frequency of vibration of the | |
| | | sound waves producing them. | |

| | corded | To record a piece of music so it | |
|-----|--------|---|--|
| mı | usic | can be played over and over | |
| | | again. | |
| Rh | ıythm | Structured groups of accented | |
| | | and unaccented beats | |
| Ro | ound | A musical composition, in which | |
| | | a minimum of three voices sing | |
| | | exactly the same melody (and | |
| | | may continue repeating it | |
| | | indefinitely), but with each voice | |
| | | beginning at different times | |
| | | Up and down this world goes round, down, the world goes up and down, up and down the world goes | |
| Tir | mbre | The tone or unique quality of a | |
| | | sound. If you play the same note | |
| | | on the piano and on the guitar, | |
| | | each note will have its own | |
| | | timbre. | |



Music Vocabulary List

| Autumn Term: | | Spring Term: | Summer Term: | Summer Term: | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Ancient Civilisations | | Going Global | Let's Celebrate | | |
| Composers | A person who writes / composes a piece of music | No music taught this term | 7 different elements of music | The seven recognized elements of music are common to all types of Western music, whether it's classical, jazz, rock 'n' roll or anything in between. | |
| Composition | A piece of music that has been written / composed | | Duration : Quaver Crotchet Minum Semibreve | See main glossary | |
| Emotion | How does this music make us feel? When composing how do we want our piece of music to make people feel? | | Emotion | How does this music make us feel? When composing how do we want our piece of music to make people feel? | |
| Musician | A person who plays a musical instrument | | Rhythmic patterns | Rhythm is like pattern, in that the same elements (i.e.shape, line) are repeated. Rhythm is music's pattern in time | |

| | Timbre | The tone or unique quality of a |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|
| | | sound. If you play the same note on |
| | | the piano and on the guitar, each |
| | | note will have its own timbre. |