

Strathaven Academy Music Department



Higher Listening Glossary



Using this Glossary

As a Higher candidate it is important that your knowledge includes concepts from National 3, National 4 and National 5 as well as Higher.

The glossary is here for reference. You should use the tables at the back of the glossary for your revision.

After completing a unit of listening you should highlight the concepts that have been included.

Highlight green if you feel confident about your understanding and can identify a concept




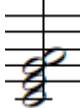


Highlight yellow if you feel confident about your understanding but not sure about identifying a concept




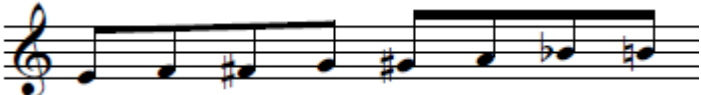
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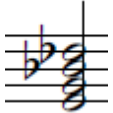

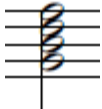
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| <i>A cappella</i> | Unaccompanied choral singing. | Timbre | N5 |
| <i>A tempo</i> | The music returns to the main tempo (speed) after there has been a change. | Rhythm | N4 |
| <i>AB</i> | Two-part form. Music in two sections: A then B. These sections may be repeated. | Structure | N5 |
| <i>ABA</i> | Three-part form. Music in three sections: A, then B, then back to A. | Structure | N4 |
| <i>Accelerando</i> | The tempo (speed) of the music gradually becomes faster. | Rhythm | N4 |
| <i>Accented</i> | Notes which sound louder than other. | Rhythm | N3 |
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| <i>Acciaccatura</i> | An ornament which sounds like a crushed note played very quickly on the beat or just before it. | Melody | H |
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| <i>Accidental</i> | A sign added to a note to change the pitch e.g. Sharp, Flat or Natural. | Melody/ Harmony | N5 |
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| <i>Accompanied</i> | Other instrument(s) or voice(s) support the main melody. | Texture | N3 |
| <i>Accordion</i> | An instrument with a keyboard, played by the right hand, and buttons, (which play chords) played by the left hand. | Timbre | N3 |
| <i>Acoustic Guitar</i> | A string instrument which can be played by either plucking or strumming the strings, with fingers or a plectrum (pick). | Timbre | N3 |
| <i>Added 6th</i> | Root, 3 rd , and 5 th of a chord with the 6 th added. E.g. CEGA. This chord is used frequently in jazz and popular music. | Harmony | H |
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| <i>Adagio</i> | A slow tempo (speed). | Rhythm | N3 |


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| African Music | Music from Africa. Main features include voices and African drums. | Style | N4 |
| Alberti Bass | Broken chords played by the left hand on the piano while the right hand plays the melody. | Texture | N5 |
| Allegro | A fast tempo (speed) quick and lively. | Tempo | N3 |
| Alto | The lowest female voice. | Timbre | N4 |
| Anacrusis | The notes which appear before the first strong beat of a musical phrase, particularly at the start of a piece. | Rhythm | N4 |
| Andante | A tempo at a walking speed. | Tempo | N4 |
| Answer | A short musical phrase that follows on from a 'question' phrase. | Melody | N3 |
| Arco | Instruction given to string players to use a bow. | Timbre | N5 |
| Aria | A solo song sung in an operatic style, in an opera, or oratorio, with orchestral accompaniment. | Style | N5 |
| Arpeggio | Notes of a chord played one after the other. | Harmony | N4 |
| Ascending | Notes that rise in pitch. | Melody | N3 |
| Atonal | Music which has no feeling of key, major or minor. It is very dissonant with lots of notes that clash. | Melody | N5 |
| Augmentation | An increase in the length of notes. The music will sound slower when imitated or repeated. | Rhythm | H |
| Backing Vocals | Singers who support the lead singer(s), usually by singing in harmony in the background. | Timbre | N4 |
| Bagpipes | A musical instrument which has a flexible bag inflated by either a tube with valves or by bellows, a double-reed melody pipe, and from one to four drone pipes. | Timbre | N3 |
| Baritone | A male voice whose range lies between that of bass and tenor. | Timbre | N5 |
| Baroque | A style of music composed between 1600 and 1750. Music of Bach and Handel. | Style | N4 |




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| Bass | The lowest male voice. | Timbre | N4 |
| Bass Drum | The lowest sounding drum. Usually found in the drum kit and sometimes in the orchestra. | Timbre | N4 |
| Bass guitar | An electric string instrument which sounds lower than a guitar with only 4 strings. | Timbre | N4 |
| Basso Continuo | Sometimes referred to as continuo. In the Baroque period, the continuo part consisted of a bass line (basso continuo) played by cello, bass, viola da gamba, or bassoon. In addition the harpsichord, organ or lute player was expected to fill in harmonies built on that bass line. | Structure | H |
| Bassoon | Lowest woodwind instrument. It uses a double reed. | Timbre | N5 |
| Beat | The basic pulse in music. | Rhythm | N3 |
| Binary | A form of music with only 2 sections; A and B. | Form | N5 |
| Blowing | The technique used to make an instrument sound. Used with brass and woodwind instruments. | Timbre | N3 |
| Blues | Music which originated from Black American folk music, using a scale where some of the notes are flattened. | Style | N3 |
| Bodhran | An Irish wooden drum. Held in one hand and played with a wooden beater. | Timbre | N5 |
| Bongo Drums | High-pitched drums. Usually in pairs and played with fingers and palms. | Timbre | N5 |
| Bothy Ballad | A Scottish folk song; sung in many verses which tells a story of rural or farming life. Usually sung by men. | Style | N5 |
| Bowing | The action of drawing a bow across the strings of a string instrument to make it sound. | Timbre | N3 |
| Brass | A family of instruments made from metal with a mouthpiece and which are blown. Instruments include; trumpet, trombone. | Timbre | N3 |
| Brass Band | A band made up of brass instruments and percussion instruments. | Timbre | N4 |

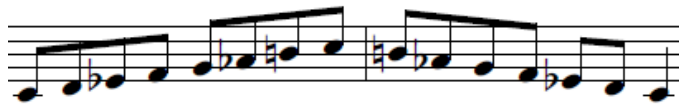
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| Broken chord | Notes of the chord played separately, one after the other. | Melody | N4 |
| Cadence | Two chords at the end of a musical phrase. | Harmony | N5 |
| Cadenza | A solo passage of music which allows performers to display their technical ability in singing or playing an instrument. A feature of a Concerto. | Structure | N4 |
| Canon | Strict imitation. A melody which is exactly copied in another part. | Structure | N4 |
| Castanets | A percussion instrument from Spain, which is two wooden shells tied together. | Timbre | N5 |
| Cello | A string family member. It is played between the knees and sounds lower than the viola. | Timbre | N4 |
| Celtic Rock | A style of music that mixes Celtic folk music and rock music. | Style | N5 |
| Chamber Music | Music written for a small instrumental ensemble with one player to a part. | Style | H |
| Change of Key | A move from one key to another. | Harmony | N4 |
| Choir | A group of singers who perform together. | Timbre | N3 |
| Chord | Two or more notes sounding together.  | Harmony | N3 |
| Chord Change | Moving from one chord to another. | Harmony | N3 |
| Chord Progression | A series of related chords built on the I, IV, and V notes of a major or minor scale. | Harmony | N4 |
| Chord Progression | A series of related chords built on the I, IV, V and VI notes of a major or minor scale. | Harmony | N5 |
| Chorus | 1. A group of singers. 2. The music written for these singers. 3. The refrain between verses in a song. | Style | N5 |
| Chromatic | Notes which do not belong to the key of the piece. A chromatic scale moves by semitones.  | Melody | N5 |

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| Clarinet | A woodwind instrument. It uses a single reed which is vibrated to produce the sound. | Timbre | N4 |
| Clarsach | A small Scottish harp. Mainly used in folk music. | Timbre | N5 |
| Classical | Music composed during the period of 1750 – 1810. Music by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. | Style | N5 |
| Cluster | A group of notes played together which clash. | Harmony | N5 |
| Coda | A passage at the end of a piece of music which concludes the piece. | Structure | N5 |
| Coloratura | Term for high, florid, vocal singing involving scales, runs and ornaments. Sometimes these passages were written down, but often were extemporised (unpractised) by the performer. | Timbre | H |
| Compound time | The beat is divided into groups of three. | Rhythm | N4 |
| Compound time groupings | The beat is a dotted note which divides into three, e.g. 6 9 12 8 8 8 | Rhythm | N5 |
| Con sordino – muted | The instruction to use the mute on the instrument. It changes the sound of the instrument. | Timbre | N5 |
| Concertino | In a Concerto Grosso this is the name given to the small solo group of instrumentalists as opposed to the main group. | Timbre | H |
| Concerto | A work for solo instrument and orchestra accompaniment. | Style | N4 |
| Concerto Grosso | A type of concerto in which a group of soloists (concertino) is combined and contrasted with a larger group (ripieno). | Structure | H |
| Contrapuntal | A texture in which parts have independent melodies playing together. Similar to polyphonic. | Texture | N5 |
| Contrary Motion | Two parts moving in opposite directions.  | Harmony | N5 |
| Counter Melody | A melody played against a main melody. | Harmony | N5 |

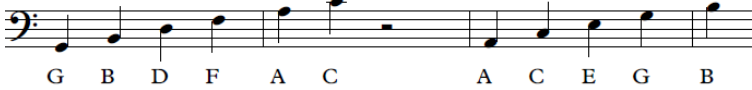
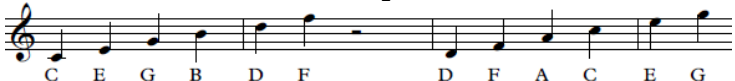
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| Crescendo | Gradually getting louder. |  | Dynamic | N3 |
| Cross Rhythm | Contrasting rhythms playing at the same time. | | Rhythm | N5 |
| Crotchet | A note that lasts for 1 beat. |  | Rhythm | N3 |
| Cymbals | A percussion instrument. Round metal discs which can be hit with beaters or drumsticks. | | Timbre | N4 |
| Da capo aria | An aria in ternary form (ABA). Found in opera and oratorio in the 17 th and 18 th Centuries. The third section is not written out but the instruction Da capo (from the beginning) is given instead. The repeat of the A section was performed with the solo ornamented. | | Form | H |
| Descant (voice) | Another melody which is sung above the main melody. | | Harmony | N5 |
| Descending | Notes which fall in pitch. | | Melody | N3 |
| Diminished 7th | A chord consisting of three intervals of a minor 3 rd built one on top of the other, the interval between the lower and top note being a diminished 7 th . This can be very useful chord for modulation to distant keys. |  | Harmony | H |
| Diminuendo | Gradually getting quieter. |  | Dynamic | N3 |
| Diminution | A decrease in the length of notes. The music will sound faster when imitated or repeated. | | Rhythm | H |
| Discord | A chord with notes which clash. | | Harmony | N3 |
| Distortion | An electronic effect in rock music which gives a distorted sound on the guitar rather than a clean sound. | | Timbre | N4 |
| Dominant 7th | Chord built on the dominant, the 5 th note, of a key which adds the 7 th note above its root. It is sometimes written as V7 or in the key of C major G7 (GBDF). |  | Harmony | H |


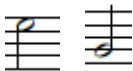
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| Dotted Crotchet | A note which lasts for 1 ½ beats.  | Rhythm | N5 |
| Dotted Minim | A note which lasts for 3 beats.  | Rhythm | N3 |
| Dotted Quaver | A note which last for ¾ beats.  | Rhythm | N5 |
| Dotted Rhythm | A rhythm which has an uneven sound. A long note followed by a short note, or a short not followed by a long note such as the scotch snap. | Rhythm | N4 |
| Double Bass | A string instrument. The lowest sounding. Can play jazz as well as being in the orchestra. | Timbre | N4 |
| Drone | One note continuously held on or repeated in the bass. A feature of the bagpipes. | Harmony | N4 |
| Drum Fill | A short rhythm that ‘fills in’ the gaps between phrases. It is heard as a change of rhythm during the music. A rhythmic decoration played on the drum kit. | Rhythm | N3 |
| Drum Kit | A set of drums and cymbals grouped together and played in rock and pop music. | Timbre | N3 |
| Electric Guitar | A guitar which requires an amplifier to produce sound. | Timbre | N3 |
| Episode | A passage of music linking two appearances of the same material, such as in Rondo Form. | Structure | N5 |
| Exposition | The first section of a movement in Sonata Form (Exposition – Development – Recapitulation). | Structure | H |
| Faster | The tempo (speed) increases. | Tempo | N3 |
| Fiddle | The Scottish name for a violin. Used in Scottish folk music. | Timbre | N3 |
| Flute | A woodwind instrument. It uses an open hole which is blown over to produce the sound. | Timbre | N4 |
| Flutter Tonguing | Rolling the letter ‘r’ whilst playing a brass or woodwind instrument. | Timbre | N5 |


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| Folk Groups | A group of musicians which play traditional music of their country. | Timbre | N3 |
| Forte | A volume instruction. Loud (<i>f</i>) | Dynamic | N3 |
| Fortissimo | A volume instruction. Very loud (<i>ff</i>) | Dynamic | N5 |
| French horn | A brass instrument. A curled up instrument with a bell at one end valves and a mouthpiece at the other. | Timbre | N5 |
| Gaelic Psalms | Hymns which are sung in Gaelic and are unaccompanied. Led by a precentor and then the congregation join in. | Style | N5 |
| Glissando | Sliding from one to another and playing every note in between.  | Melody | N5 |
| Glockenspiel | A percussion instrument. Metal bars set up like a keyboard, which are hit with beaters. | Timbre | N4 |
| Gospel | Music written with religious lyrics often praising or thanking God. | Style | N5 |
| Grace note | A very quick ornament in the melody. A crushed note before the main note of the melody. Often heard in bagpipe melodies.  | Melody | N5 |
| Ground Bass | A theme in the bass line which is repeated many times while the upper parts play are varied. | Structure | N5 |
| Grouped Semi quavers | A group of semiquavers which are joined together.  | Melodic | N4 |
| Guiro | A percussion instrument made of wood. It is hollow with ridges on the sides which can be scraped. It can also be hit to produce a sound. | Timbre | N4 |
| Harmonic Minor Scale | Scale which shares the same key signature as its Relative major but raises the 7 th note by a semitone. | Melody | H |


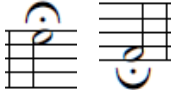


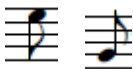
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| Harmonics | The high eerie sounds produced on a string instrument by lightly touching the string at certain points. On a guitar these will sound bell like. | Timbre | H |
| Harmony | Two or more notes sounding together. | Structure | N3 |
| Harp | A string instrument. It has 47 strings which are plucked by the fingers to sound. | Timbre | N4 |
| Harpsichord | A keyboard instrument where the strings are plucked. | Timbre | N4 |
| Hi hat cymbals | Two cymbals which are used as a pair (one is upside down). They can be hit by drum sticks or brushed and opened and closed with a foot pedal. | Timbre | N5 |
| Homophonic | A texture. The melody and accompaniment play parts which are similar in rhythm at the same time. | Texture | N5 |
| Imitation | Where the melody is immediately copied in another part. | Form | N4 |
| Imperfect Cadence | Two chords at the end of a phrase which has the last chord as chord V. It sounds unfinished. | Harmony | N5 |
| Impressionist | A term borrowed from painting which creates an impression rather than a clear cut idea. Debussy was an important composer of this style. Texture and Timbre were explored including whole tone scale, parallel chords and unresolved chords to create a blurred and vague outline. | Style | H |
| Improvisation | The performer makes up the music during the performance. The music is not written down. | Melody/ Style | N3 |
| Indian Music | Music from India which uses the tabla and sitar. | Style | N5 |
| Interrupted Cadence | An interrupted cadence is usually formed by the chords V-VI. This is also known as the surprise cadence as the listener may be expecting V-I which has a more final sound. | Harmony | H |

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| Interval | The distance in pitch between two notes. | Melody | H |
| Inverted Pedal | A note which is held on or repeated in an upper part. | Harmony | N5 |
| Irregular Metres | Groupings of notes changing while the underlying pulse remains constant. | Rhythm | H |
| Irregular Time signatures | Time signatures which are uncommon. These include. 7 5 7 8 4 4 Sometimes composers in the 20 th Century try to destroy the feeling of regular down beats by changing the time signature frequently. Stravinsky used this technique in 'The Rite of Spring'. | Rhythm | H |
| Jazz | A style of music which emerged from black Americans in the early 20 th Century. | Style | N3 |
| Jazz Funk | A combination of jazz improvisation and the amplified instruments and character of Rock. | Style | H |
| Jig | A fast Scottish dance in compound time. | Rhythm | N4 |
| Latin American Music | Dance music from South America. Percussion instruments provide lively off-beat dance rhythms. | Style | N3 |
| Leap/ Leaping | Jumping between notes which are not next to each other. | Melody | N3 |
| Legato | An instruction to play or sing the notes smoothly. | Timbre | N3 |
| Lied | German for song. Specific to the Romantic period to works for solo voice and piano. The text is in German, the structure of the verses can be strophic or through composed. The voice and piano part are equally important | Form | H |
| Lines and Spaces of Bass clef | Notes on the 5 lines of the staff: Lines: G B D F A C Spaces: A C E G B  | Melody | N5 H |
| Lines and Spaces of Treble clef | Notes on the 5 lines of the staff: Lines: C E G B D F Spaces: D F A C E G  | Melody | N3 |


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| Major | A description of the key. Major keys tend to sound bright. | Harmony | N4 |
| March | Music with a strong steady pulse with either 2 or 4 beats in the bar. | Rhythm | N3 |
| Mass | The Mass is a sacred choral work using the five main sections of the Roman Catholic church liturgy; Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnes Dei, Benedictus. The text is in Latin. Originally used in church worship, but in later year the Mass became a large scale work for chorus, soloists and orchestra. | Style | H |
| Melismatic | Several notes sung to one syllable of a word. | Melody | N5 |
| Melodic Minor | Scales which share the same key signature as its relative major but raises the 6 th and 7 th notes by a semitone ascending and lowers them descending. | Melody | H |
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| Mezzo Forte | Volume instruction. Fairly (half) loud (mf) | Dynamic | N4 |
| Mezzo piano | Volume instruction. Fairly (half) quiet (mp) | Dynamic | N4 |
| Mezzo soprano | A female singer whose range is between Soprano and alto. | Timbre | N5 |
| Middle eight | In pop music, the section of music in the middle of the song which is a contrast to the opening, often 8 bars long. | Structure | N4 |
| Minim | A note which lasts for 2 beats.  | Rhythm | N5 |
| Minimalist | A style of music developed in the 20 th Century where music was based on simple rhythmic or melodic ideas which are repeated. | Style | N5 |
| Minor | A description of the key. Minor music is often duller sounding than major | Harmony | N4 |
| Modal | Term used to describe music which is based on a mode. | Harmony | H |



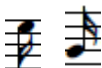
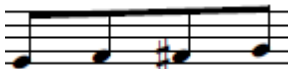
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| Mode | A type of early scale used before major and minor keys were developed. Modes are used in jazz and pop music for improvising. | Melody | H |
| Moderato | A tempo (speed) instruction. A medium speed. | Tempo | N5 |
| Modulation | A change of key. | Harmony | N5 |
| Mordent | An ornament which sounds the main note, the note above, then the main note again.  | Melody | H |
| Mouth Music | Unaccompanied songs sung in Gaelic often containing nonsense words. Used as an accompaniment to dancing (e.g. strathspeys, reels, jigs etc). | Style | N4 |
| Musical | A play which has speaking, singing and dancing and is performed on stage with costumes and scenery. | Style | N3 |
| Musique Concrete | Recorded natural sounds which are transformed using simple editing techniques such as cutting and re-assembling, playing backwards, slowing down and speeding up. | Style | H |
| Muted | Using a device which reduces the volume or alters the sound of an instrument. | Timbre | N4 |
| Obbligato | A prominent solo instrument part in a piece of vocal music. | Melody | H |
| Oboe | A woodwind instrument. It uses a double reed to produce the sound. | Timbre | N5 |
| Octave | The distance of 8 notes between notes of the same name. C to c | Structure | N3 |
| Off the beat | Notes played on the weak beats of the bar, e.g. on beats 2 or 4. | Rhythm | N3 |
| On the beat | Notes played on the strong beats of the bar, e.g. on beats 1 or 3. | Rhythm | N3 |
| Opera | A drama set to music with soloists, chorus, acting and orchestral accompaniment. Can be sung in various languages. | Style | N4 |


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| Oratorio | Usually a story from the bible set to music for soloists, chorus and orchestra. It may include arias, recitatives, duets, & choruses. It is performed without acting or costumes. | Style | H |
| Orchestra | A large group of instruments that can include strings, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. | Timbre | N3 |
| Organ | A keyboard instrument usually found in churches. It often has 2 or more keyboards as well as foot pedals. It produces sound by blowing air through different pipes. | Timbre | N3 |
| Ornament | A decoration in the melody line. | Melody | N4 |
| Ostinato | A short musical pattern repeated many times. | Structure | N3 |
| Paired Quaver | Two quavers joined together.  | Rhythm | N4 |
| Passacaglia | Variations over a ground bass. | Form | H |
| Pan Pipes | Pipes, usually made of bamboo, grouped together in different sizes. They produce sound by blowing over the open end. | Timbre | N4 |
| Pause | A note or rest which is held longer than written. The pause sign can be written above or below the note  | Rhythm | N3 |
| Pedal | A note which is sustained or repeated in the bass line. | Structure | N4 |
| Pentatonic | A scale which only uses 5 notes. Used mainly in Scottish and folk music. | Melody | N4 |
| Percussion | A family of instruments which have to be struck or shaken to produce sound. Tuned percussion can play different notes. Untuned percussion can only produce one sound. | Timbre | N3 |
| Perfect Cadence | Two chords at the end of a musical phrase which uses chord V then I. It sounds finished and complete. | Harmony | N5 |
| Pianissimo | A volume instruction. Very quiet (pp) | Dynamic | N5 |

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| Piano (dynamics) | A volume instruction. Quiet (p) | Dynamic | N3 |
| Piano (instrument) | A keyboard instrument. The sound is produced by using hammers to hit the strings. | Timbre | N3 |
| Pibroch | Music for solo bagpipe, in theme and variation form, and uses grace notes. | Style | N5 |
| Piccolo | A woodwind instrument. It sounds higher than the flute and produces sound in the same way. | Timbre | N5 |
| Pitch bend | Changing the pitch of a note, e.g. by pushing a guitar string upwards while playing. | Melody | N5 |
| Pizzicato | A string instrument instruction to pluck the string rather than use the bow (<i>pizz</i>). | Timbre | N5 |
| Plucking | Using your finger to pluck a stringed instrument rather than using a bow. | Timbre | N3 |
| Plagal Cadence | A plagal cadence uses the chords IV- I. It is usually heard at the end of a hymn and known as the 'Amen' cadence. It sounds finished. | Harmony | H |
| Plainchant | Also known as plainsong or Gregorian chant. Unaccompanied melody set to works of the Roman Catholic liturgy. Plainchants are modal and have no regular metre. They follow the rhythm of the Latin words. | Style | H |
| Polyphonic | A texture where two or more parts interweave with independent rhythms but combine harmonically. | Texture | N5 |
| Pop | A style of popular music played by a group of musicians. Groups might include guitar, drum kit, keyboards and vocals. | Style | N3 |
| Pulse | The basic beat in music. It can be groups in 2, 3 or 4. | Rhythm | N3 |
| Quaver | A note which lasts for $\frac{1}{2}$ beat  | Rhythm | N4 |
| Question | An opening phrase often followed by an answer. | Melody | N3 |

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|-----------------------|--|-----------|----|
| Ragtime | A style of dance music which became popular at the end of the 19 th Century. Played on the piano, featuring a vamp accompaniment and a syncopated melody. | Style | N4 |
| Rallentando | A tempo (speed) instruction. Gradually getting slower. | Tempo | N4 |
| Rapping | Rhyming lyrics that are spoken and performed in time to a beat. Popular in hip-hop music. | Style | N4 |
| Recitative | A type of vocal writing where the music follows the rhythm of speech. It is used in operas and oratorios to move the story or plot forward. It has a sparse accompaniment rather than the whole orchestra. | Style | H |
| Recorder | A woodwind instrument. Available in many sizes, descant, treble, tenor and bass. | Timbre | N4 |
| Reel | A fast Scottish dance in simple time. | Rhythm | N3 |
| Reggae | A style of music from Jamaica developed in the late 1960s. It has strong accents on beats 2 and 4 and has a relaxed feel. | Style | N4 |
| Relative Major | A change from minor to major key with the same key signature. It can be found by moving 3 semitones higher. | Harmony | H |
| Relative Minor | A change of from major to minor key with the same key signature. It can be found by moving 3 semitones lower. | Harmony | H |
| Repeat sign | A sign which instructs you to play the music again.  | Rhythm | N4 |
| Repetition | An exact repeat of a musical idea. | Melody | N3 |
| Reverb | An electronic effect which gives the effect of being in different acoustic spaces e.g. a small room, a large hall etc. | Timbre | N5 |
| Riff | A repeated phrase in the bass line, usually found in jazz and popular music. | Structure | N3 |

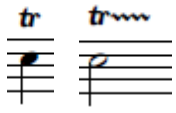

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| Ripieno | In Baroque music. The main group of instrumentalists in a concerto grosso (as opposed to the small solo group know as the Concertino). | Timbre | H |
| Ritardando | A tempo (speed) instruction. Slow down (<i>rit</i>). | Tempo | N5 |
| Ritornello | Little Return. A recurring theme with contrasting episodes in between. In a concerto grosso, the ritornello is the main theme played by the ripieno group (the orchestra) and sometimes the concertino (the soloists). The ritornello may return frequently throughout the movement. | Structure | H |
| Rock | A style of music which has a heavy, driving beat. Usually features electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit. | Style | N3 |
| Rock 'n' Roll | Music from 1950s America combining styles from jazz, blues, gospel and country. | Style | N3 |
| Roll | A fast repetition of a note on a percussion instrument.  | Timbre | N5 |
| Romantic | Music composed between 1810 and 1900. Music of Wagner, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Schubert | Style | N4 |
| Rondo | A form where the first sections keeps returning between contrasting sections e.g. A B A C A D A etc. | Structure | N5 |
| Round | Each part sings or plays the same melody entering one after the other e.g. three blind mice. When they reach the end they start again. | Structure | N3 |
| Rubato | A tempo (speed) instruction. 'Robbed time'. The music will speed up or slow down to be more expressive. No strict tempo. | Tempo | N5 |
| Saxophone | A woodwind instrument. It is a single reed instrument and usually plays in jazz and blues music. | Timbre | N4 |
| Scale | A sequence of notes moving by step either ascending or descending. | Melody | N4 |

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| Scat singing | Nonsense words, syllables and sounds which are improvised by the singer. Usually heard in blues and jazz. Sometimes the singer will imitate instruments. | Melody | N4 |
| Scotch Snap | A very short note accented before a longer note. Usually heard in Scottish music. A feature of a strathspey.  | Rhythm | N4 |
| Scots Ballad | A slow Scottish song which tells a story, e.g. Loch Lomond or Flower of Scotland. | Style | N4 |
| Scottish | Music of Scotland. | Style | N3 |
| Scottish Dance Band | A band which plays Scottish music to dance to. Instruments may include fiddle, accordion, piano, bass and drums. | Timbre | N3 |
| Semibreve | A notes which lasts for 4 beats.  | Rhythm | N3 |
| Semiquaver | A note which lasts for 1/4 beat.  | Rhythm | N4 |
| Semitone | The smallest interval between two notes, e.g E to F or moving by fret on the guitar.  | Melody | N5 |
| Sequence | A melodic phrase which is immediately repeated at a higher or lower pitch. | Melody | N3 |
| Sforzando | A note played with a forced sudden accent. | Dynamic | N5 |
| Simple Time | The music has 2, 3 or 4 beats in the bar and each beat can be divided into 2. | Rhythm | N4 |
| Sitar | A string instrument which is plucked and used in Indian music. | Timbre | N5 |
| Slower | The speed decreases. | Tempo | N3 |

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| Snare Drum | A percussion instrument. Usually played as part of the drum kit. The snare is metal wires held over the skin which shake when the drum is played. These can be against the drum (on) or not (off). | Timbre | N4 |
| Solo | 1 performer either playing an instrument or singing, with or without accompaniment. | Texture | N3 |
| Sonata | A work for solo piano, or a solo instrument accompanied by piano, in three or four movements. | Style | H |
| Sonata Form | This term is used to describe the structure of the first movement of many sonatas, symphonies and often overtures. It falls into three sections: exposition – development – recapitulation. The exposition introduces two contrasting subjects (group of ideas) in related keys. These are developed and heard again in the recapitulation, this time in the same key. | Form | H |
| Soprano | The highest female voice. | Timbre | N4 |
| Soul Music | A style of Afro-American popular music including elements of blues and gospel and conveying strong emotions. | Style | H |
| Staccato | Notes are short and detached.  | Timbre | N3 |
| Steel Band | A West Indian band whose instruments are made from oil drums. These pans are hammered into panels which produce different pitches. | Timbre | N3 |
| Step/ Stepwise | Moving up or down between notes which are next to each other. | Melody | N3 |
| Strathspey | A Scottish dance with 4 beats in the bar featuring the Scotch snap. | Rhythm | N4 |
| Striking | The action used to hit an instrument to produce sound. | Timbre | N3 |
| String Quartet | A group of 4 string players made up of 2 violins, 1 viola and 1 cello. This group would mainly play chamber music. | Timbre | H |

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| Strings | A family of instruments which use vibrating strings to produce sound. The string can either be bowed or plucked. | Timbre | N3 |
| Strophic | A vocal or choral composition where each verse has the same music. | Structure | N5 |
| Strumming | The action of drawing a finger or plectrum across string instruments to make them sound. Usually heard on guitar. | Timbre | N3 |
| Subject | The main theme in a composition e.g. Sonata form. | Structure | H |
| Swing | A jazz style which started in the 1930s. Usually played by a Big Band, which used trumpet, trombone, saxophone and double bass instruments. | Style | N4 |
| Syllabic | In singing when each syllable of the word is given an individual note. | Melody | N5 |
| Symphony | A large work for orchestra. Usually in 4 or more movements. | Style | N5 |
| Syncopation | Strongly accented notes playing off or against the beat. | Rhythm | N4 |
| Tabla | Indian drums used to accompany the Sitar. | Timbre | N5 |
| Tambourine | A percussion instrument. A wooden or plastic frame which has jingles held in the frame which can be shaken or stuck to sound. | Timbre | N4 |
| Tenor | A high male voice. | Timbre | N4 |
| Ternary | 3 part form. The first section is heard again after a contrasting section. A B A. | Structure | N4 |
| Theme and Variation | A main melody (theme) is heard and then repeated with some kind of variation or change. | Structure | N4 |
| Three against two | One line of music may be playing notes in groups of two whilst at the same time another line of music will be playing triplets. | Rhythm | H |






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| Through-Composed | A vocal or choral composition in which there is little or no repetition of the music. Each verse of music will be different. | Structure | H |
| Tierce de Picardie | When a piece of music is in the minor key but the last chord is major. | Harmony | H |
| Time changes | When the main pulse or beat of the music changes. | Rhythm | H |
| Timpani | A percussion instrument. A large bowl shaped drum with a skin stretch over the top. They can produce several notes on a single drum. | Timbre | N4 |
| Tone | An interval of 2 semitones. C to D, or G to A. | Melody | N5 |
| Tremolando | Term for rapid up and down movement of the bow on a string instrument. It creates an agitated and restless effect. Also describes rapid alteration of two different notes at least a 3 rd apart on the piano, strings or wind instruments. | Timbre | H |
| Triangle | An un-tuned percussion instrument. A metal bar shaped into a triangle shape which is struck with a metal beater. | Timbre | N4 |
| Trill | Moving quickly between two adjacent notes.  | Melody | N5 |
| Triplets | 3 notes played in the time of 2  | Rhythm | H |
| Trombone | A brass instrument. The only instrument with a slide instead of valves. | Timbre | N4 |
| Trumpet | The highest sounding brass instrument. | Timbre | N4 |
| Tuba | The lowest sounding brass instrument. | Timbre | N5 |
| Unaccompanied | There are no instruments supporting the melody. | Texture | N3 |
| Unison | Two or more parts playing or singing the same note at the same time. | Structure | N3 |

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| Vamp | A rhythmic accompaniment with a bass note played on the beat and a chord off the beat. Usually played on piano or guitar. | Harmony | N4 |
| Verse and Chorus | A structure popular in many songs. The music for the verse is different from the music of the chorus. The music will usually alternate between these sections. | Structure | N4 |
| Viola | A string instrument. Slightly larger than the violin with a lower sound. Can be played arco or pizzicato. | Timbre | N5 |
| Violin | The smallest and highest sounding string instrument. It can be played arco or pizzicato | Timbre | N4 |
| Voice | The human instrument. Used to sing or speak. | Timbre | N3 |
| Walking Bass | A bass line that moves often by step, in notes of the same value. Often used in jazz and blues music. | Structure | N5 |
| Waltz | A dance with 3 beats in the bar. In simple time. | Rhythm | N3 |
| Waulking song | A rhythmic song sung in Gaelic. It originates from the Western Isles of Scotland. The ladies would waulk (beat) the woollen cloth to soften and shrink it. Usually led by a soloist with a response from the rest of the women. | Style | N5 |
| Whole-tone Scale | A scale containing only whole tones with no semitones. | Melody | N5 |
| Wind band | A band with woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. | Timbre | N4 |
| Woodwind | A family of instruments which require air to be blown across or into a hole against an edge for the instrument to sound, or through a double or single reed. | Timbre | N3 |
| Xylophone | A tuned percussion instrument. Wooden bars are arranged like the keyboard and are struck with beaters to sound. | Timbre | N4 |

NATIONAL 3

| Styles | Melody/ Harmony | Rhythm/ Tempo | Texture/ Structure/ Form | Timbre/ Dynamics |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Blues Jazz Rock Pop Rock 'n' roll Musical Scottish Latin American | Ascending Descending Step/ stepwise Leap/ leaping Repetition Sequence Question & Answer Improvisation Chord Discord Chord Change | Accent/ Accented Beat/ Pulse Bar 2, 3 4 beats in the bar On the beat Off the beat Repetition Slower Faster Adagio Allegro Pause March Reel Waltz Drum fill | Unison Octave Harmony Chord Solo Accompanied Unaccompanied Repetition Ostinato Riff Round | Striking Blowing Bowing Strumming Plucking Staccato Legato Orchestra Strings Brass Woodwind Percussion Tuned and un- tuned Accordion Fiddle Bagpipes Acoustic guitar Electric guitar Piano Organ Drum kit Steel band Scottish dance band Folk group Voice Choir |

LITERACY

| Melody/ Harmony | Rhythm/ Tempo | Timbre/ Dynamics |
|---|--|---|
| C E G B D F D F A C E G Steps Repetition | Crotchet Minim Dotted Minim Semibreve  Barlines  Double Barlines  | <i>f</i> – forte <i>p</i> – piano <i>cresc</i> – crescendo <i>dim</i> – diminuendo |

NATIONAL 4

| Styles | Melody/ Harmony | Rhythm/ Tempo | Texture/ Structure/ Form | Timbre/ Dynamics |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Baroque Ragtime Romantic Swing Concerto Opera Scots Ballads Mouth Music Reggae African Music Rapping | Major/ Minor (tonality) Scale Pentatonic Scale Chord Progression – chords I, IV & V (major keys) Change of key Pedal Drone Broken Chord Arpeggio Octave Vamp Scat singing Ornament | Syncopation Dotted Rhythms Scotch Snap Strathspey Jig Simple time – 2 3 4 4 4 4 Compound time Anacrusis Andante Accelerando Rallentando A tempo | Canon Ternary – ABA Verse & Chorus Middle 8 Theme & Variations Cadenza Imitation | Brass Band Wind Band Violin Cello Double Bass Harp Flute Clarinet Saxophone Pan Pipes Recorder Trumpet Trombone Timpani Snare Drums Bass drum Cymbals Triangle Tambourine Guiro Xylophone Glockenspiel Harpischord Bass Guitar Soprano Alto Tenor Bass Backing Vocals Distortion Muted |


L I T E R A C Y

| Melody/ Harmony | Rhythm/ Tempo | Timbre/ Dynamics |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Treble clef stave C – A' Sequences | Semiquaver Grouped semiquavers Quaver Paired quavers Repeat signs | <i>mf</i> – mezzo forte <i>mp</i> – mezzo piano |

NATIONAL 5

| Styles | Melody/ Harmony | Rhythm/ Tempo | Texture/ Structure/ Form | Timbre/ Dynamics |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Symphony Gospel Classical Pibroch Celtic Rock Bothy Ballad Waulking song Gaelic Psalm Aria Chorus Minimalist Indian Music | Tone Semitone Atonal Cluster Chord Progressions – I, IV, V, VI (Major) Modulation Cadence Imperfect cadence Perfect cadence Chromatic Whole tone scale Contrary Motion Grace note Glissando Inverted Pedal Trill Syllabic Melismatic Countermelody Descant (voice) Pitch bend | Rubato Ritardando Moderato Cross Rhythms Triplets Compound time 6 9 12 8 8 8 | Strophic Binary – AB Rondo – ABACADAE etc Episode Alberti Bass Walking Bass Ground Bass Homophonic Polyphonic Contrapuntal Coda | Piccolo Oboe Bassoon French Horn Tuba Viola Castanets Hi hat cymbals Bongo Drums Clarsach Bodhran Sitar Tabla Mezzo Soprano Baritone A cappella Arco Pizzicato Con sordino Flutter Tonguing Rolls Reverb |

L I T E R A C Y

| Melody/ Harmony | Rhythm/ Tempo | Timbre/ Dynamics |
|---|--|--|
| Tones Semi tones Accidentals – sharps, flats, naturals Scale Chords & key signatures C, G, F major A minor Leaps | Dotted Rhythms Dotted Crotchet Dotted Quaver Scotch Snap 1 st & 2 nd time bars  | <i>ff</i> – fortissimo <i>pp</i> – pianissimo <i>sfz</i> - sforzando |

H I G H E R

| Styles | Melody/ Harmony | Rhythm/ Tempo | Texture/ Structure/ Form | Timbre/ Dynamics |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Sonata</p> <p>Oratorio</p> <p>Recitative</p> <p>Impressionist</p> <p>Musique</p> <p>Concrete</p> <p>Plainchant</p> <p>Mass</p> <p>String Quartet</p> <p>Chamber</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Jazz Funk</p> <p>Soul Music</p> | <p>Mode</p> <p>Modal</p> <p>Relative Major</p> <p>Relative Minor</p> <p>Interval</p> <p>Obligato</p> <p>Acciaccatura</p> <p>Mordent</p> <p>Plagal Cadence</p> <p>Interrupted</p> <p>Cadence</p> <p>Tierce de</p> <p>Picardie</p> <p>Dominant 7th</p> <p>Diminished 7th</p> <p>Added 6th</p> <p>Harmonic</p> <p>minor scale</p> <p>Melodic Minor</p> <p>Scale</p> | <p>3 against 2</p> <p>Time changes</p> <p>Irregular time</p> <p>signatures</p> <p>Augmentation</p> <p>Diminution</p> | <p>Through- Composed</p> <p>Da capo aria</p> <p>Lied</p> <p>Passacaglia</p> <p>Sonata form</p> <p>Exposition</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>Concerto</p> <p>grosso</p> <p>Basso</p> <p>Continuo</p> <p>Ritornello</p> | <p>Coloratura</p> <p>Tremolando</p> <p>Harmonics</p> <p>Ripieno</p> <p>Concertino</p> <p>String</p> <p>Quartet</p> |

L I T E R A C Y

| Melody/ Harmony | Rhythm/ Tempo | Timbre/ Dynamics |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Bass Clef E – C</p> <p>Transposing into Bass</p> <p>Chords I, IV, V, VI in major and minor</p> <p>Diminished chords</p> <p>Dominant chords</p> <p>Diatonic intervals from tonic note</p> | <p>6/8 time</p> <p>Quavers</p> <p>Crotchets</p> <p>Dotted Crotchet</p> <p>Dotted Minim</p> <p>Triplets</p> <p>Rest – Semibreve, Minim, Crotchet, Quaver, Dotted Crotchet</p> <p>Da capo</p> | <p>Slurs</p> <p>Accents</p> <p>Staccato marks</p> <p>Phrase Marks</p> |

