



Elements of Music

A cappella: Music is specifically group or solo singing without instrumental accompaniment.

Beat: A steady pulse

Body Percussion: Use of the body to make percussive (sounds that can play the beat or rhythm). *e.g. clapping hands, stamping feet, thigh slapping, tongue clucking*

Dynamics: The varying levels of loudness or softness.

Elements of Music: The key ingredients of music *e.g. beat, rhythm, pitch, tempo, tone colour or timbre and dynamics.*

Environmental Sounds: Found sounds that are made from anything in the natural or man-made environment that can be safely banged together, shaken, scraped, blown into, rattled, tapped *e.g. pots and pans, spoons, buckets, sticks, pebbles, shells, driftwood, coconut shells, plastic bottles and fillers – split peas, rice, peppercorns, small pebbles, water.*

Form: The compositional structure or structures that shape a musical work or section of a work; or a particular genre of music *e.g. the symphony.*



Genre: A category of music e.g. *disco, jazz, hip hop, rap, opera, blues, country...*

Graphic Notation: In which sound or music is represented by symbols e.g. *shapes or lines.*

Harmony: The combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce a pleasing effect.

Improvisation: Is the creative activity of immediate "in the moment" musical composition, which combines performance with communication of emotions and instrumental technique as well as spontaneous response to other musicians.

Melody: Is a memorable series of pitches. In a non-formal setting, we can just say it's the tune of the song.

Mood: The atmosphere or feelings associated with a piece of music or song.

Notation: Is the writing down of a piece of music; or the written form itself.

Ostinato: A repeated accompaniment pattern that can be rhythmic or melodic and that is maintained throughout a section or piece.
E.g. "Boom diddy boom, diddy boom boom boom"

Pentatonic Scale: is a musical scale or mode with five notes per octave e.g. C D E G A; F G A C D; G A B D E ... pentatonic music is considered to be appropriate for young children due to its simplicity.



Pitch: The degree of highness or lowness in a note.

Representation: Using some form of notation to convey musical ideas or compositional intent.

Rest: Silent beat(s)

Rhythm: Short and long sounds that fit over an underlying beat.

Rhythm Pattern: Combination of long and short sounds that fit over an underlying beat.

Sound Source: Is the means by which a sound is produced e.g. an instrument, voice, environmental object, electronic device.

Tempo: The speed of the beat

Tone Colour or Timbre: The specific sound quality of a voice or instrument

Tuned Percussion: Instruments are pitched and can produce tunes or melodies e.g. piano, xylophone, glockenspiel...

Untuned Percussion: Instruments with no notes or definite pitch e.g. maracas, tambourine, bells...

