MAD T-SHIRT Elements of Music - Summary Knowledge Organiser



Melody

The main tune

High, Low, Getting Higher, Getting Lower, Stepwise (Conjunct) Movement, Angular/Leap (Disjunct Movement)
Arpeggio/Broken Chord, Scalic (ascending/descending), Range, Sequence, Imitation, Repetition, Contrast, Leitmotif, Motif, Octave, Intervals, Semitone, Tone, Microtone, Chromatic Movement, Pentatonic, Whole Tone, Chromatic, Raga, Blue Notes, Countermelody, Answering Phrase, Thematic, Fanfare.

Articulation

How the notes are played or sung

Smoothly (legato, slur), spikily (staccato, detached), accent, arco "bowed" or pizzicato "plucked" (strings), ornamented or decorated (trill, turn, mordent, acciaccatura, appoggiatura), pause(d) (pause sign), Tremolo, Sforzando (*sfz*)
Humming, Syllabic, Melismatic, Scat, Vibrato, Falsetto, Belt, Rap, Staccato, Legato, Sustained, Accent, Pizzicato, Arco/bowed, Divisi, Double stopping, Tremolo, Distortion, Hammer on, Rim shot, Slap bass, Drum roll, Muted, Glissando/slide, Pitch bend, Plucked, Slurred, Tongued , Detached.

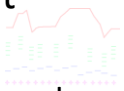
Dynamics

The volume of a piece of music

Loud (Forte), Piano (Soft)
Getting Louder (Crescendo),
Getting Softer (Diminuendo/Decrescendo)
Very Loud (Fortissimo)
Very Soft (Pianissimo)
Moderately Loud (Mezzo Forte)
Moderately Soft (Mezzo Piano).

Texture

The layers of sound and how they fit together



Thick, Thin, Sparse, Solo, Layered, Dense
Monophonic, Homophonic, Polyphonic, Heterophonic, 2-, 3- or 4-part Textures, Unison, Chordal, Imitation, Melody and Accompaniment, Block Chordal, Layered, Antiphonal, Countermelody, Descant, Round, Canon, Drone, Alberti Bass, Stab Chords, Walking Bass.

Structure and Form

How a piece of music is organised and ordered into different sections



Phrase, Movement, Cyclic, Binary, Ternary, Rondo, Popular Song Form, 32-bar Song Form, Variation Form, Ground Bass, 12 Bar Blues, Sonata Form. Strophic and Through-Composed, Canon/Round, Minuet and Trio, Instrumental Solo.

Harmony

The chords used in a piece

Tonality: Major or **minor, Key Signature, Triads, Primary Chords (I, IV and V)**, Secondary Chords (II, III, VI), **Chord Sequence (Pattern/Progression), Cadences: Perfect, Plagal, Imperfect, Interrupted.**
Diatonic, Tonal, Atonal, Chromatic, Sharp, Flat, Modulation, Modal, Consonance, Dissonance (Discords), Tierce de Picardie, Pedal, Drone.

Instruments

Each instrument and voice have a unique sound called its **Timbre** or **Sonority**

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double bass, Harp; Woodwind: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet , Saxophone, Bassoon; Brass: Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Tuba; Percussion: Timpani , Drum kit, Snare drum, Cymbal; Hand held percussion; Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Tabla, Dhol, Keyboard, Piano, Organ, Harpsichord, Basso Continuo, Classical or Spanish guitar, Electric guitar, Bass guitar, Sitar, Sarangi, Tumbi; Solo, Duet, Trio; Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, Backing vocals, A cappella , Chorus, Orchestra, String quartet, Pop/rock group, Rhythm section; Acoustic.

Rhythm

The pattern of notes against the beat

Duration – Long or Short Notes.
Pulse, **Beat**.
Note Values – Semibreve, Minim, Crotchet, Quaver and **Rests, Dots and Ties, Triplets**.
Time Signatures – 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8
Ostinato, **Syncopation**.
Swing Rhythms, On the Beat, Off the Beat, Chaal, Driving Rhythms, Dance Rhythms, Rock Rhythms.

Tempo

The speed of the music

Fast, Slow, Getting Faster (Accelerando), Getting Slower (Ritardando, Rallentando), "Beats per minute" (BPM)
Italian terms relating to Tempo: *Allegro, Vivace, Allegretto, Moderato, Andante, Adagio, Lento*; Rubato, Pause.

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Instruments - Knowledge Organiser

Instruments, Voices and Groupings (Timbre and Sonority)

A. Orchestra – a large **ENSEMBLE** (group of musicians) of performers on various musical instruments who play music together. No set number of performers but a **SYMPHONY ORCHESTA** can have 80-100+ performers.

A1. Strings Section/Family

Largest section of the orchestra. Usually played with a **BOW (ARCO)**, (not the **HARP**) but can be **PLUCKED (PIZZICATO)**.

VIOLINS split into two groups: **1st VIOLINS** (often have the main **MELODY** of the piece of music) and **2nd VIOLINS**. A **STRING ORCHESTRA** is made up solely of **BOWED STRINGS** (violins, violas, cellos and double basses only (no harp))



Violin Viola



Cello Double Bass Harp

A2. Woodwind Section/Family

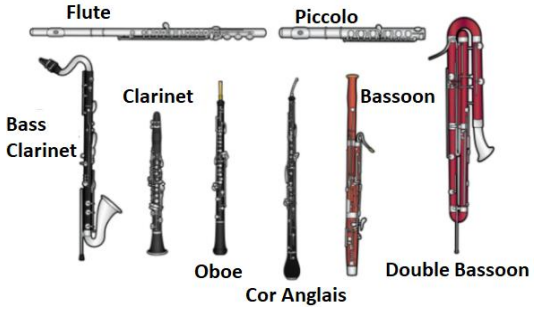
Originally (and some still are) made from wood (some now metal and plastic). All are **BLOWN**.

FLUTES: Flute and Piccolo – air blown over hole.

SINGLE REED (small piece of bamboo in the mouthpiece): Clarinet, Bass Clarinet & Saxophone (not traditionally in the orchestra, but some modern composers have used it)



DOUBLE REED (two reeds in the mouthpiece): Oboe, Cor Anglais, Bassoon, Double Bassoon.



A3. Brass Section/Family

All made from metal – usually brass and **BLOWN** by the player 'buzzing their lips' into a **MOUTHPIECE** *(shown right)*. The Trumpet, French Horn and Tuba all have three **VALVES** which, along with altering the players mouth positions, adjust the length of the tubing allowing for different notes to be played. The Trombone has a **SLIDE** which adjusts the length of the tubing.





A4. Percussion Section/Family

Always located at the very back of the orchestra (due to their very loud sounds!). Large number of instruments which produce their sound then ***hit, struck, scraped, or shaken.***

TUNED PERCUSSION (able to play different pitches/notes)



Piano **Xylophone** **Glockenspiel** **Timpani** **Celesta** **Tubular Bells**

UNTUNED PERCUSSION (only able to produce 'sounds').



Bass Drum **Snare Drum** **Cymbals** **Woodblock** **Guiro**



Triangle **Gong** **Tambourine** **Cabasa** **Maracas**

B. Pop/Rock Group Instruments



Drum Kit (with extra percussion often called the **Rhythm Section**)



Acoustic Guitar (**Classical** or **Spanish Guitar**)



Electric Guitar



Bass Guitar

ACOUSTIC instruments (one whose sound is produced without any electrical or electronic equipment) *e.g., strings, saxophone, trumpets etc.*

C. Keyboard Instruments



Piano



Keyboard



Organ



Harpsichord

D. Voices

Soprano – The highest pitched female singing voice
Alto – A high male or low-pitched female singing voice
Tenor – A high pitched male singing voice
Bass – The lowest male singing voice
Lead Singer/Vocal – Often the 'frontline' member of a band (most famous) who sings most of the melody
Backing Vocals – Support the lead singer providing **harmony** or a **counter-melody** and do not sing all the time but just at certain points within the song *e.g., in the chorus*
A Cappella – Unaccompanied singing (voices only)
Chorus – A large group of singers (choir) who perform with an orchestra or within an opera, oratorio or musical often in **4-part harmony (SATB)**



E. Groupings and Ensembles



Solo – One singer or performer performing alone



Duet – Two singers or performers performing together



Trio – Three singers or performers performing together

String Quartet – A small string group of 4 performers (two violins, viola and cello)



Basso Continuo – Harpsichord (or Organ) and Cello (or Bassoon) performing bass line and 'filling in harmonies' – used in Baroque music.



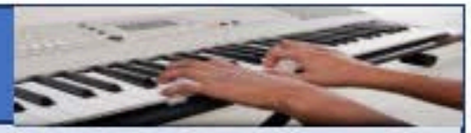
Jazz Group – Rhythm Section: Electric Guitar, Piano, Double Bass, Drums;
Frontline – Clarinets, Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones



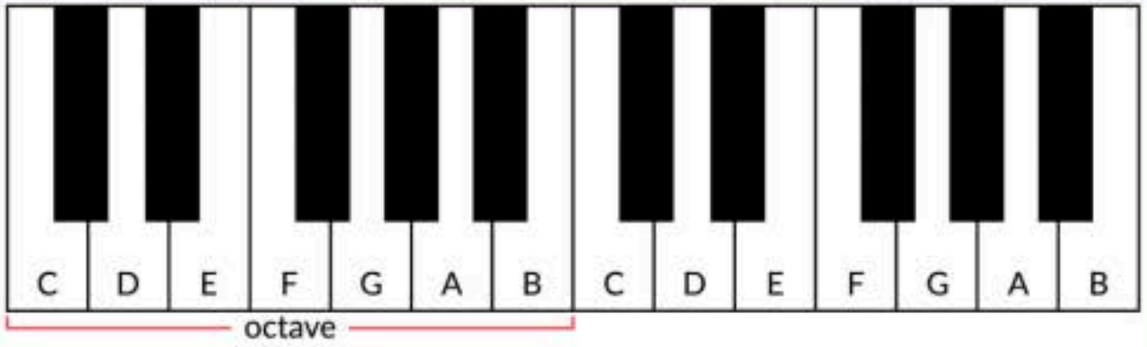
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KEYBOARD SKILLS

Exploring Treble Clef Reading and Notation

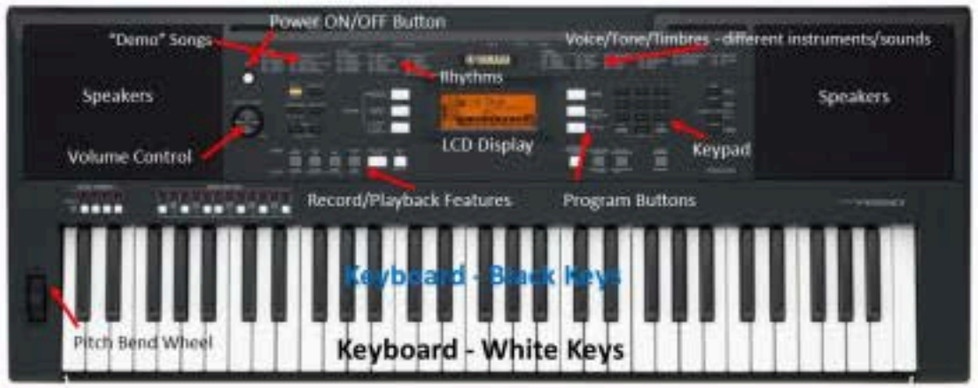


A. Layout of a Keyboard/Piano



A piano or keyboard is laid out with **WHITE KEYS** and Black Keys (see section G). C is to the left of the two Black Keys and the notes continue to G then they go back to A again. Notes with the same letter name/pitch are said to be an **OCTAVE** apart. **MIDDLE C** is normally in the centre of a piano keyboard.

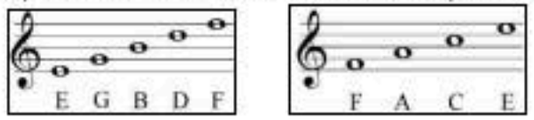
D. Keyboard Functions



B. Treble Clef & Treble Clef Notation

A **STAVE** or **STAFF** is the name given to the five lines where musical notes are written. The position of notes on the stave or staff shows their **PITCH** (how high or low a note is). The **TREBLE CLEF** is a symbol used to show high-pitched notes on the stave and is *usually* used for the right hand on a piano or keyboard to play the **MELODY** and also used by high pitched instruments such as the flute and violin. The stave or staff is made up of 5 **LINES** and 4 **SPACES**.

Every Green Bus Drives Fast. Notes in the **SPACES** spell "**FACE**"



Notes from **MIDDLE C** going up in pitch (all of the white notes) are called a **SCALE**.

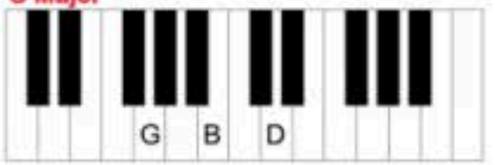


C. Keyboard Chords

C Major



G Major



F Major



A Minor



Play one – Miss one – play one – miss one – play one

E. Left Hand/Right Hand (1-5)





F. Black Keys and Sharps and Flats

There are five different black notes or keys on a piano or keyboard. They occur in groups of two and three right up the keyboard in different pitches. Each one can be a **SHARP** or a **FLAT**. The # symbol means a **SHARP** which raises the pitch by a semitone *(e.g. C# is higher in pitch (to the right) than C)*. The *b* symbol means a **FLAT** which lowers the pitch by a semitone *(e.g. Bb is lower in pitch (to the left) than B)*. Each black key has 2 names – C# is the same as D*b* – there's just two different ways of looking at it! Remember, black notes or keys that are to the **R**IGHT of a white note are called SHA**R**PS and black notes to the **L**EFT of a white note are called F**L**ATS.

