






Music Vocabulary






General vocab

accent – where the music is emphasised
bar – a regular section on a staff, separated by vertical lines. Contains the beats
beat – unit of rhythm
canon – tune that is repeated at regular intervals by different performers, but with different starting times
chant – singing in unison, with a similar rhythm to speech
choir – group of singers
chord – 2 or more notes (usually 3) played simultaneously in harmony
chord progression – string of chords played in succession, usually a pattern
clef – a symbol on written music, defining what pitch to play the note
crescendo – getting louder
decrescendo – getting quieter
dissonance – harsh sounds, chords not in harmony
downbeat – first beat in a bar
drone – monotonous tone
duet – two vocalists or instruments
dynamics – how loud or quiet a piece of music is
ensemble – all instruments in an orchestra or all voices in a choir, playing at once.
flat – playing a note a semitone lower than the written one

Note lengths

 Semibreve – 4 beats
 Minim – 2 beats
 Crotchet – 1 beat
 Quaver – ½ beat
 Semiquaver – ¼ beat

Rest lengths

 Semibreve rest – 4 beats
 Minim rest – 2 beats
 Crotchet rest – 1 beat
 Quaver rest – ½ beat
 Semiquaver rest – ¼ beat

forte – loud
harmony – pleasing combination of two or more notes, played in background behind melody
key – system of notes based on a key note
key signature – the flats and sharps at the beginning of each line, to be played throughout the piece
music
major – a happy sounding piece of music
measure – a bar in a piece of music
minor – a sad sounding piece of music
notation – a method of writing music
octave – 8 full tones above the key note.
Start and end of a scale
off beat – the unaccented beat
orchestra – a large group of instruments, usually classical
pulse – the constant beat in a piece of music
rest – moment when a note is not played for a defined length of time
rhythm – structured groups of accented and unaccented beats
scale – successive notes of a key, ascending or descending
sharp – note to be raised by a semitone
slur – a curve over notes, suggesting that it is slurred together
staccato – short, sharp notes
staff – five horizontal lines on which notes are written
tempo – speed of a piece
time signature – how many beats to a bar
unison – playing or singing the same notes simultaneously
vibrato – quickly alternating between two notes – a wobbly sound

Common Tempo words

adagio – slow and calm
allegro – quick and lively
andante – relaxed and flowing
largo – slow and broad
lento – slow
moderato – a reasonable pace
rit. (ritardando) – slowing the tempo (also **ral. (rallentisnez)**)
presto – quick and lively
prestissimo – extremely quick