

The Elements of Music – Knowledge Organiser

Describing Music using MAD T-SHIRT (The Elements of Music)



Melody

The main tune



High or Low **Pitch**.
Ascending or Descending.
Steps (**Conjunct**) or Leaps (**Disjunct**).

Articulation

How the notes are played or sung



Staccato – Short and detached
Legato – Smoothly and connected

Dynamics

The volume of a piece of music



Piano Quiet
Forte Loud .
Changes in Dynamics –
Crescendo – gradually getting louder;
Diminuendo/Decrescendo – gradually getting softer.

Texture

The layers of sound and how they fit together

Monophonic- Single melody with no accompaniment



Homophonic- melody with accompaniment.

Polyphonic- two or melodies at the same time

Structure and Form

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



Binary (AB), Ternary (ABA), Rondo (ABACADA), Popular Song (verse chorus)

Harmony

The chords used in a piece



Major or minor key,

Instruments

Each instrument and voice have a unique sound called its

Timbre

Strings
Woodwind
Brass
Percussion

Rhythm

The pattern of notes against the beat



Duration – Long or Short Notes.

Tempo

The speed of the music



Fast – Allegro
Moderate – Moderato
Slow – Adagio
Walking Pace- Andante