



# Specialist Subject Vocabulary-Music



## Pitch

How high or low a sound is.

## Performance

The act of presenting and playing music to an audience.

**Suffix:** **ance** - action, result

**Root Word:** perform

## Sharp

Higher than true or normal pitch.

## Flat

Lower than true or normal pitch.

## Rhythm

The pattern of regular or irregular beats in music.

## Melody

Musical sounds in agreeable succession or arrangement.

## Instrument

An apparatus for producing musical sounds: a stringed instrument.

## Orchestra

A group of performers on various musical instruments, including especially stringed instruments of the viol class, clarinets and flutes, cornets and trombones, drums, and cymbals, for playing music.

## Composition

(The creation of) a piece of music.

**Suffix:** **tion** - act, process or result

**Root Word:** pose - put, place

## Tempo

The speed a piece of music should be played at (Italian for 'time'), e.g. allegro (fast) or adagio (slowly).



# Challenge Vocabulary-Music



## Texture

The overall effect created by adding or taking away layers of sound - rhythm, melody, harmony, voice, instrument - in a piece of music.

## Dynamics

The changes in volume throughout a piece of music.

## Duration

The length of each sound.

## Notation

The act of making notes on music; a system of symbols used to make notes in music.

**Suffix:** **ate** - to make into, become; **tion** - act, process or result

**Root Word:** note

## Semibreve

A musical note shown by a large ring; worth 4 crotchets.

**Prefix:** **semi** - half

## Minim

A musical note shown by a ring with a vertical line; worth 2 crotchets, or half a semibreve.

## Crotchet

A musical note, shown by a black dot with a vertical line up or down; worth 1 beat, or a quarter of a semibreve.

## Quaver

A musical note shown by a black dot with a hooked vertical line; worth half of a crotchet, or an eighth of a semibreve.

## Timbre

The character or quality of a musical sound or voice - whether it is clear or muted, for example.

## Treble Clef

A symbol indicating that the second line from the bottom of a staff represents the pitch of G above middle C.